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PM meets MKs in coalition crisis

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN and LIAT COLLINS

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has invited several members of the coalition to meet with him today in the wake of growing dissent over the government's handling of the further redeployment and Har Homa.

Netanyahu is expected to meet with, among others, MKs Hanan Porat and Zvi Hendel of the National Religious Party and Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled of Tsomet, all of whom are threatening to vote against the government in a Labor motion of no-confidence.

MK Yossi Beilin and other Labor leaders yesterday urged the party to reconsider its faction decision last week to put off a vote of no-confidence in Netanyahu, due to his trip to Russia tomorrow. The decision, made by Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen and party chairman Shimon Peres in response to a request by coalition chairman Michael Eitan (Likud), was seen in Labor as Peres's way of appeasing Netanyahu, in the hope of forming a national unity government.

Eitan yesterday continued to call for the formation of a unity government.

Foreign Minister David Levy will decide today whether to put off his scheduled trip to the United States because of the crisis within the coalition.

A vote of no-confidence needs a 61-MK majority to pass. If it does pass, this would mean new elections for both prime minister and the Knesset.

MK David Re'em (Likud) called on Netanyahu to resign, "because his voters have lost their faith in him after he broke various promises." Re'em said he would vote against the prime minister in a no-confidence motion.

Netanyahu has abandoned the Likud way and his promises as if they never existed," said Re'em. "Netanyahu is not even demanding that [Yasser] Arafat change the Palestinian Covenant as he promised as a condition for the continuation of the diplomatic process. Israel is divesting itself of all its assets and by the time the talks on the permanent arrangements take place, there will be nothing left to give up. This is not what we dreamed of."

Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) also said he is also considering voting no-confidence in the prime minister.

The NRP's Hendel and Porat have both said they would vote no-confidence, while Shaul Yahalom is demanding the NRP faction discuss leaving the coalition.

Deputy Education Minister Peled and Haim Dayan (both Tsomet) have also said they would either vote no-confidence in the prime minister or absent themselves.

The two-member Moledet faction - Rehavam Ze'evi and Benny Elon - announced on Friday they too would vote against Netanyahu in a no-confidence motion.

On the other hand, Yisrael Ba'Aliya faction chairman Roman Bronfman said "there is no doubt that Yisrael Ba'Aliya will remain faithful coalition partners."

Beilin, who is running for the Labor Party leadership, yesterday came out strongly against the formation of a national unity govern-

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Rehov Bar-Ilan protest resumes

Haredim demonstrating on Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan flee from police yesterday morning. About 500 haredim were involved in the protest; they shouted 'Shabbos' at passing motorists, threw garbage into the street and attempted to block traffic. Police kept the street open. (AP)

Arabs press for Har Homa debate in UN General Assembly

By MARILYN HENRY, MILLE KUTTLER, and news agencies

NEW YORK - Arab countries pressed yesterday for an emergency meeting of the 185-nation UN General Assembly, after the United States on Friday vetoed a Security Council resolution calling on Israel to abandon plans for a new Jewish neighborhood on Jerusalem's Har Homa.

The vote in the 15-nation council late Friday was 14 in favor, with only the US opposing the resolution, which was sponsored by four of its European Union allies - Britain, France, Portugal, and Sweden.

A similar resolution is considered certain to win overwhelming backing in the assembly, where there is no veto but whose resolutions are not binding.

The US was among nearly 50 countries that criticized Israel's decision during a two-day council debate. But Ambassador Bill Richardson, the new US envoy, said the council is not an appropriate forum for issues now under discussion between Israel and the Palestinians.

He also said the resolution made "sweeping statements concerning the legal status of Israeli settlements," which Israel and the Palestinians had agreed would be among permanent status issues to be discussed at forthcoming talks.

"The adoption of unbalanced

positions by outside parties can only damage this process," said David Peleg, the Israeli charge d'affaires.

In Jerusalem, Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur expressed satisfaction at the US veto as well as Israel's "serious reservations" over the European initiative in the resolution.

The current chairman of the Arab group, which initiated the council debate, Ambassador Nasser bin Hamad al-Khalifa of Qatar, said an emergency session of the assembly would be convened as soon as possible. "We will achieve a solution which is accepted by the majority of the human race," he told reporters.

The Palestinian Authority's UN observer, Nasser Kidwa, said the US veto would have a negative impact on the Middle East peace process. The veto "might be misunderstood by the Israelis... as some kind of green light or yellow light for them to proceed with their project," Kidwa added.

In Washington, US officials said they remain opposed to the Har Homa decision, but that with an Israeli-Palestinian peace process established, the UN is the wrong forum for addressing the controversy.

State Department spokesman Elaine McDermott warned that it would be a "tragedy" should the Palestinians respond with violence, because "only through negotiations" have Palestinians



US ambassador to the UN Bill Richardson (left) and Israeli representative David Peleg before Friday's Security Council debate.

attained their goals.

Also Friday, the US issued a mixed response to the cabinet's decision on redeploying from about 9 percent of the territories. "We believe this decision is a

demonstration of Israel's commitment to the peace process," a statement released by spokesman Nicholas Burns said. "This deci-

Continued on Page 2

Spitting image: Teacher's DNA shows blood tie to 9,000-year-old skeleton

LONDON (AP) - Using DNA from a tooth, scientists have established a blood tie between a 9,000-year-old skeleton known as "Cheddar Man" and an English schoolteacher who lives just one kilometer from the cave where the bones were found.

It is the longest human lineage ever traced, the team of scientists from Oxford University's Institute of Molecular Medicine said yesterday.

The scientists announced that Adrian Targett, 42, a history teacher in the town of Cheddar in southwest England, shares a common ancestor with Cheddar Man.

"They would have shared a common ancestor about 10,000 years ago so they are related - just not very closely," said Dr. Bryan Sykes, leader of the research team.

Targett was startled by the news. "I am overwhelmed, a bit surprised," said Targett, whose ancestry was revealed during the filming of a documentary. "I was just about to say I hope it's not me."

Targett suggested that if more people were tested, researchers would find other relatives of Cheddar Man.

Dr. Larry Barham, a Texas-born archaeologist at Bristol University, said the finding "adds to the evi-

dence that Britons came from a race of hunter-gatherers who later turned to farming because they found it was to their advantage."

Opponents of this theory argue that Britons are descendants of Middle Eastern farmers.

To get the DNA, scientists extracted cells from a molar tooth of Cheddar Man. They compared the mitochondrial DNA - which is inherited unchanged on the maternal line - with samples of mitochondrial DNA from the cheek cells of 15 pupils at the Kings of Wessex school, where Targett works, and five adults from old Cheddar families.

Prof. Chris Stringer, a researcher at London's Natural History Museum, said one problem with the research "is that we don't know that Cheddar Man had any children. This is mitochondrial DNA that is only inherited through the maternal link, so this would come from Cheddar Man's mother or his sister."

The discovery came when a television director was researching a series on archeology.

In search of information on whether cannibalism was practiced by Stone Age man, scientists took the sample of cells from the jaw of Cheddar Man.

US pledged support for 9 percent pullback

By DAVID MAKOVSKY and ARIEN O'SULLIVAN

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu secured a US promise to issue a qualified endorsement if the cabinet voted late Thursday night to withdraw from 9.1% of the West Bank, sources indicated.

The cabinet voted 10-7 to approve the 9.1% pullback, and the US endorsed it within an hour of the vote. The US statement, issued by State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns, said the US welcomed the move, while being hopeful that Israel would do more in the second and third pullbacks.

"We believe this decision is a demonstration of Israel's commitment to the peace process," Burns said, adding the pullback "represents a serious expansion of Palestinian authority."

The government wanted the US statement out of concern Israel would be accused by the Palestinians of approving a pullback that was not sufficient.

The redeployment is expected to be carried out by the end of this week, military sources said. OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan and Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ophir, the commander of IDF forces in Judea and Samaria, are planning to meet with settlers leaders to explain the security ramifications of the government's decision.

"And there are a lot of them," said one military source.

Both Netanyahu and General Security Service head Ami Ayalon said during the marathon cabinet session Thursday night that a 9% pullback, which was close to the 10% the US was urging, provided the best hope that the Palestinians would not riot in response to the planned construction on Har Homa, cabinet-level sources said.

According to this view, the Palestinians would find it difficult to get violent if the pullback won American approval, however qualified.

However, Palestinian officials had been publicly insisting that this pullback would involve 30% of the territory. So it is not clear that the

much smaller pullback, combined with frustration at the US veto of a UN Security Council resolution on Har Homa, will be enough to prevent Palestinian rioting when bulldozers are to begin work at Har Homa in about a week.

Ministers suggested that the GSS's evaluation helped carry the vote for Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, and Foreign Minister David Levy, who all favored this option. Pullbacks of 5% and 7% were also proposed, but not voted upon.

Contrary to reports, it was apparently Netanyahu, as well as Mordechai, Levy, and Finance Minister Dan Meridor, who phoned US Ambassador Martin Indyk during the meeting to both inform him of the direction of the vote, and to ensure that the scope of the pullback would elicit a US statement.

The planned pullback includes the town of Halhoul, near Hebron, some territory near Bethlehem, and territories just outside of Jenin, Nablus, and Ramallah. There is no territory being given up that would link Palestinian cities.

Of the 9%, 7% comes from Area B, the territories under shared Israeli-Palestinian control; these areas will now become part of Area A, which is exclusively controlled by the Palestinian Authority. Area A will now encompass 10% of the West Bank.

The rest of the territory to be yielded comes from Area C, which until now has been under exclusive Israeli control. Two percent of this is to become Area B, and 0.1% is to become part of Area A. Following the pullback, Area C will comprise 68% of the West Bank, and Area B some 22%.

Meanwhile, officers in the Central Command are to get the details of the government's decision today, so that regional commanders can draw up plans for the redeployment.

Regional brigade commanders have to decide what additional security measures are needed, such as joint patrols or additional police or troop presence, before the pullback can take place.

Ze'evi 'Jewboy' slur draws official apology

WASHINGTON (AP) - The US State Department spokesman said Friday he was glad that Moledet MK Rehavam Ze'evi, who hurled an ethnic insult at American Ambassador Martin Indyk and challenged him to a fistfight, later apologized.

"We expect that all members of the Israeli Knesset, including the individual in question, will treat our ambassador with dignity. I think that point has been made to the individual in question," department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters.

Israel's Foreign Ministry said Friday it regretted "the offensive statements" aimed at Indyk. Yediot Aharanot reported Friday that Ze'evi had called Indyk a "Jewboy" and a "son of a bitch" at a memorial ceremony on Thursday for prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Ze'evi, who often criticizes the United States for putting pressure on Israel in talks with Arabs, used the same insult last month in the Knesset plenum. He was formally rebuked.

The newspaper said Indyk told Ze'evi: "The last time somebody called me a 'Jewboy' was when I was 15 and then he got a punch in the face."

Ze'evi replied: "Well, try me. Let's see you. You are a Jewboy." Indyk: "You are a disgrace to your people."

Ze'evi: "You are a son of a bitch." Yediot said Ze'evi later offered an apology, which Indyk accepted.

The Foreign Ministry statement said Indyk "personifies the friendship" between Israel and the United States.

"There is no place for such remarks against the ambassador of a foreign country. The Foreign Ministry values [Indyk's] personal contribution and professionalism for years toward the Israel-US relationship," it said. "Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur telephoned Ambassador Indyk and expressed his regret over the offensive statements."

"It is the ambassador's view that the matter is closed," US spokesman Richard Scorsia said.

NEWS

in brief

Four-month-old baby dropped from window

A four-month-old boy was dropped from the third-floor window of his Jerusalem apartment onto a first-floor balcony yesterday afternoon by his 11-year-old sister.

The boy is in critical condition at Hadassah-University Hospital, at Ein Kerem. Medics who arrived on the scene found his head had swollen to twice its normal size. The incident took place on Binat Yissachar Street, in Kiryat Beit.

Eli Wohlgelemer

Yahav demands debate over IDF dog unit

Following a Channel 1 story on the use of attack dogs in the IDF, MK Yona Yahav (Labor) said he would raise the issue in a motion to the agenda in the Knesset plenum. According to Yahav, who has studied the subject for several months, the dog-handling unit lacks trained manpower which prevents it from being used to its full potential and even leads to unnecessary loss of life.

He said both the dogs and their handlers were not sufficiently trained and the IDF lacks a policy of integrating the dog unit with its other operations.

Liat Collins

GSS confirms Palestinians released prisoners

General Security Service chief Ami Ayalon told the cabinet at its special session late Thursday night that the Palestinian Authority had released dozens of security prisoners in recent weeks, including those who had killed Jews. He was responding to a question from Communications Minister Limor Livnat.

Curfew imposed on Beit Omar

The IDF yesterday imposed a curfew on the village of Beit Omar, on the Gush Etzion-Hebron road, following disturbances there which began on Friday. Village youths threw stones at IDF soldiers and border policemen on Friday and again yesterday. Villagers said the violence was in response to news that Beit Omar would not be included in the first stage of the IDF pullout and that they wanted to express their resentment at being abandoned by the Palestinian Authority.

Itim

Two killed in weekend road accidents

A four-year-old boy was run over by a bus and killed Friday afternoon near his home in Kiryat Sefer. Also Friday, 23-year-old Guy Shlaf of Holon was killed when his motorcycle hit a truck in Jaffa.

There were 49 road accidents over the weekend, in addition to the two people killed, 74 people were injured, one seriously and three moderately.

Itim

Rabbi to meet Clinton on cloning

Rabbi Chaim Silverman, an activist of Rafah (Medicine According to Halacha) in the US, is to meet Tuesday with President Bill Clinton in Washington to discuss genetic cloning and to present him with the halachic approach to the issue. Rafah officials here are waiting for the results of that meeting, before holding a session here to discuss the halachic ramifications of the issue.

Rabbi Yehoshua Scheinberger, chairman of Rafah, said that the US has classified information relating to cloning, and it was hoped that Silverman would be able to get access to some of that information, which would help rabbis formulate a firmer halachic position.

Itim

UN

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sion on the first phase of further redeployment represents a serious expansion of Palestinian authority. It is only the first step in a three-phase process and we hope the government of Israel will do more in the second and third phases.

Burns also said that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu briefed Secretary of State Madeleine Albright after the decision was taken Thursday night.

In an appearance Friday before the National Association of Arab Americans, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said Egypt is withholding comment until it consults with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat. But he criticized what he called Israel's "return to the illegal policy of settlements, actions that would alter the status of

Jerusalem." He said a continuation of the policy would lead to a "real crisis" in the peace negotiations.

In Gaza yesterday, PA Chairman Yasser Arafat chastised the US for its veto, calling it "a completely wrong decision." (See story, Page 2)

The defeated council resolution would have expressed deep concern over Israel's decision to "initiate new settlement activities in the Jabal Abu Ghneim area in East Jerusalem." It would have called on "the Israeli authorities to refrain from all actions or measures, including settlement activities, which alter the facts on the ground, preempting the final status negotiations, and have negative implications for the Middle East peace process."

The previous US veto was in May 1995, to block a resolution calling on Israel to rescind the expropriation of 53 hectares of Arab land in eastern Jerusalem.

confidence vote tomorrow, stressing "there is no reason in the world not to vote no-confidence in this bad government."

MK Ehud Barak, considered to be ahead of rival Beilin in the race for party leadership, said that forming a unity government now is out of the question and "anyone who does so will be branded with a mark of disgrace."

PM

Continued from Page 1

ment.

"Labor would be making a mistake if it gave Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's government the oxygen it needs to survive," Beilin told party activists in Netanyahu.

Beilin called for holding a no-

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(son of Shimshon ז"ל)

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Cecile and Leon Fiszman

Egypt faces scolding on antisemitism

Congress increasingly riled over inflammatory remarks in Egyptian press

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - As President Hosni Mubarak arrived in Washington yesterday for a four-day visit, Congress was once again upset with Egypt.

The latest point of contention is Foreign Minister Amr Moussa's minimizing complaints voiced by members of the House International Relations Committee of antisemitism in the Egyptian press.

According to participants in their meeting on Thursday, Moussa retorted that since Arabs are Semitic, the Egyptian press could not be antisemitic. He also reportedly stated that regardless, the Israeli press was nasty toward Egypt.

"He brushed it off. Maybe he doesn't realize how serious people are about this," a key House of Representatives aide said Friday. "I don't think Amr Moussa does [understand]. If he does, he doesn't show it. Egypt considers itself a leader in the Arab world. There are privileges. There are responsibilities."

"They just don't get the depth and breadth of members' concerns about the peace process, antisemitism in the press, human rights - the whole panoply of issues."

There are indications that some members of the House would now support reducing Egypt's aid package due to the

growing list of grievances.

The aide said that symbolically slicing into Egypt's \$800 million in annual economic assistance (Cairo also gets \$1.2 billion in military aid) is a "real" possibility in light of the "cumulative" effect of what is seen as Egypt's unhelpfulness in the peace process. The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith will greet Mubarak with a full-page advertisement in tomorrow's *New York Times* that shows three derogatory cartoons from the Egyptian press. The advertisement is headlined: "You have the power, President Mubarak, to stop the antisemitic hate in Egypt. Use it."

Mubarak is to meet tomorrow morning with President Bill Clinton as well as with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

International Relations Committee chairman Benjamin Gilman and Democratic member Tom Lantos did raise the issue of the antisemitism during the meeting Thursday with Moussa. However, there was no discussion of tying Egypt's performance on that or the peace process to its aid package.

In a committee hearing last month, Lantos complained to Albright about Cairo being "less than helpful" in the peace talks and suggested that aid could be used as a lever.

But Jo Bonner, spokesman for House foreign operations subcommittee chairman Sonny Callahan, said Friday that

Callahan would not support a cut unless the Clinton administration requested it.

After talks with French President Jacques Chirac in Paris on Friday, Mubarak said that the Middle East peace process was going through a tough period but was not on the verge of crumbling.

Mubarak told reporters after dinner at Chirac's Elysee Palace late on Friday: "One cannot say that the peace process threatens to collapse. It is true that it is going through a difficult phase."

Mubarak said that the issue of peace in the Middle East had been on the agenda for the past 30 years and could not be resolved quickly. "It is certainly going to face several problems, but with goodwill we're going to succeed," he said.

Chirac told reporters he had once again noted that Egypt and France saw eye-to-eye on bilateral, regional and peace process issues, and world and especially African questions. "Everything that President Mubarak said, I could have said," Chirac added.

A Chirac spokesman said that the attitude toward new Jewish settlement of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, whom Mubarak met on Wednesday in Cairo, prompted concern on his commitment to the peace process.



Peace Now activists march with torches last night from Mar Elias toward Har Homa, to protest against the planned construction of the Jerusalem neighborhood.

Har Homa protest ends peacefully

By JON IMMANUEL and news agencies

Some 2,000 protesters marched toward Har Homa on Friday. Marwan Barghout, Fatah head in the West Bank and Palestinian legislative council member, said the turnout, in sunny weather, was relatively low, because "23 buses were stopped at roadblocks north of Jerusalem."

Protesters from Hebron said they had arrived at the site only because they came early.

Salah Tazamari, council member for Bethlehem, said there had never been a plan to expend energy on a one-time massive demonstration but to "come again and again and again."

The marchers, who started from a school in Beit Sahur, shouted slogans including "Shame on

Netanyahu," but were stopped by a line of soldiers and policemen on a hilltop opposite Har Homa at the Jerusalem municipal border. The marchers protested peacefully and there was no tension.

Prayers, first for Moslems and then for Christians, were held and Jewish supporters from Gush Shalom (the Peace Bloc) sang peace songs. Peace Now and other activists, including Meretz MKs, marched from Mar Elias toward Har Homa in a torchlight parade last night.

Senior security sources said they do not think the Palestinian Authority wants to encourage violence, but rather "to build a case" through constant civil protest that would encourage the international community to force Israel to back down and add to the PA's diplomatic clout.

Milo to support boycott of mall if McDonald's forced to close on Shabbat

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo will support a consumers' boycott of the Ramat Aviv shopping mall if its owners Africa Israel decide to close the McDonald's restaurant there on Shabbat.

Milo, who spoke on Channel 1's *Shabbat Game* yesterday, was commenting on Africa Israel's intention not to allow McDonald's to operate on the weekend in the mall.

"Africa Israel will be taking a very big risk if it tries to act against the will of its consumers. I don't exclude the possibility of a consumers' boycott against the company and against shopping in their mall. If they insist on closing McDonald's on Shabbat, it may well lead to a confrontation," Milo said.

Omri Padan, McDonald's managing director and Israel franchise owner, said yesterday that his contract enables him to operate a non-kosher restaurant in the mall on Saturday, if there are other places of business open there too. He noted that the cinemas also intend to operate on weekends.

Padan said that on weekends McDonald's restaurants get double the customers and business than on weekdays, "because this is what the public wants, it's part of the family entertainment for the Israeli public, as it is in Europe and the United States. It would be hard to operate a fast food chain which is open on weekdays only."

Padan said on the weekends he employs teenagers. Since the law forbids forcing him to close down on Saturdays, "the Labor minister searched around and found a law from 1951, which forbids a Jewish boy or girl to work on Shabbat. He sent a team of Druze inspectors to check the religious identity of the workers," he said.

Show host Menashe Raz noted that commercials for cheeseburgers are still being broadcast on Channel 2, although religious circles are demanding the ads be taken off the air.

Padan pointed out "the cheeseburger is a product legally sold in the State of Israel, and it is unprecedented to censure the advertisement of a product openly and legally sold."

IAF blasts Hizbullah targets

By DAVID HUDGE

At least one Hizbullah gunman was reported to have been killed or wounded during continuing fighting in south Lebanon over the weekend.

IDF warplanes struck at targets of the extremist Shi'ite organization in the J'ba'a area north of the security zone yesterday.

There were no immediate reports of any casualties in the air raid. The IDF spokesman said the pilots reported accurate hits and that all planes returned safely to their bases.

The air strike followed a Hizbullah mortar attack on IDF and South Lebanese Army troops in the eastern part of the zone. There were no casualties in the attack, and IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

Earlier in the day, Hizbullah gunmen fired mortars and Sagger anti-tank missiles at an SLA position in the Zummriya area, also in the eastern sector of the zone. There were no casualties and IDF

and SLA gunners returned fire. One Hizbullah gunman was reported hit by the return fire.

Reports from Lebanon said the shelling was relatively heavy, with IDF and SLA gunners firing more than 100 artillery rounds.

Fighting was also reported on Friday, apparently in the Soujoud-Rehan region in the zone's eastern sector, when mortars and at least one anti-tank missile were fired at IDF troops.

There were no casualties in that incident either, for which Hizbullah also claimed responsibility, and IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

Meanwhile, there were reports from Lebanon that SLA troops had vacated two positions in the Kafr Falus area, in the Christian-dominated Jezzine enclave north of the zone over the weekend.

Lebanese radio and television reports maintained that the movement was a sign that Israel intends to implement a "Jezzine first" decision as a prelude to a possible withdrawal from south Lebanon.

France: Lack of Syrian accord may cause regional deterioration

By ELDAD BECK

PARIS - The lack of any evident flexibility in the positions of either Israel or Syria means that peace talks between the two countries are unlikely to resume soon, and the situation in the region might deteriorate, French officials said over the weekend.

During a Middle East tour last week, French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette met with officials in Israel, Syria and Lebanon, in an attempt to narrow the gap.

"There is a serious problem of lack of confidence, mainly on the Syrian side," according to a diplomat who accompanied de Charette on his visit to the region. "Syria wants to have guarantees as to the application of the principle of 'land for peace.' The Syrians will not agree to resume the talks with Israel without such guarantees. They fear that without them, talks will be blocked by the Israelis for a long time."

The French are very concerned about a possible military escalation in south Lebanon as a result

of the diplomatic deadlock, the official added.

"The parties concerned should not wait too long before negotiations resume, since maintaining the status quo might be dangerous for the whole region," the diplomat stressed.

Despite the French pessimism, the French source said his country and the European Union intend to continue their efforts to renew the Syrian-Israeli dialogue.

"It is normal that at the end of the negotiations, both countries will have full diplomatic ties, with embassies. As to the rest, once the negotiations will resume they will have their own dynamic, which will define the evolution of relations," he said.

As to the future of French-Israeli relations, de Charette was very encouraged by the talks he held with Israeli leaders, politicians and intellectuals, according to the source.

During his visit to Israel, a joint committee was established that will oversee the furthering of bilateral ties.

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הכרזת תחרות



An armed Albanian rebel waves during an anti-government demonstration in the southern port town of Sarande. (Reuters)

Albanian rebels loot main army base

News agencies

GIROKASTER - Hundreds of rebels ransacked the main army base in southern Albania yesterday while bewildered soldiers stood by, eyewitnesses said.

Jubilant rebels seized thousands of arms including assault rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and launchers, and then left the base firing their new weapons in the air, they said.

Meanwhile, former Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky yesterday headed for Tirana in charge of a one-day fact-finding mission for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The OSCE initiative follows similar missions by the Council of Europe and the European Union.

Vranitzky early this week had been asked by chairman-in-office of the 53-nation OSCE, Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen, to go to Tirana. But that

trip was delayed by initial Albanian government opposition.

Vranitzky's delegation includes representatives from ten other countries - the trika countries - Switzerland, Denmark and Poland, the previous, current and next country holding chairmanship of the organization, the European Union trika countries Ireland, Netherlands and Luxembourg as well as the United States, Russia, Italy and Greece.

In the south of Albania Gjirokastra, 30 km from the Greek border, is the main government stronghold and one of the few towns which has not joined the revolt against President Sali Berisha.

Earlier yesterday, at least six army helicopters arrived in Gjirokastra and disgorged dozens of troops to bolster morale in the beleaguered town, which is cut off by land to the north and the south.

But eyewitnesses said local residents gathered quickly and

opened fire as confused soldiers got out of truck near the town square. About 15 soldiers surrendered and the rest ran off, they said.

If Gjirokastra goes over to the rebels, most of the south will be in their hands and Berisha will face a country which is split cleanly in two.

Rebels seized towns throughout the south last week in a popular uprising against Berisha. Locals blame Berisha for the collapse of five popular investment schemes in January, which wiped out the savings of tens of thousands of Albanians.

The armed militants controlling much of southern Albania have begun talking to each other in an effort to make common cause against the Berisha government.

Defense committees have formed in dozens of towns and villages in the south, their leaders controlling the roads linking the towns with heavily armed checkpoints.

Royals riled over prince's confirmation

Diana annoyed with guest list

LONDON (AP) - Plans for Prince William's confirmation today have been marred by reports of arguments over the guest list and insults to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The private service - a Christian equivalent to bar mitzva, in which young people affirm their acceptance of church teachings, will be a milestone for the 15-year-old, destined to be king and head of the Church of England.

But the festivities have been blighted by his status as child of the world's most spectacularly broken marriage.

Scattered reports of hostilities over the guest list have built up steadily. The newspaper reports, as usual anonymously sourced, said Princess Diana was furious that Tiggy Legge-Bourke, who is companion to William and 12-year-old Prince Harry when they are with their father, would be a guest and helped organize confirmation plans.

And the *Daily Mail* said yesterday Diana was annoyed to find that former staff members with whom she had strained relations had been invited.

Diana is widely reported to dislike Ms. Legge-Bourke's close relationship with her sons. The hostility between them went public last year when a famous libel lawyer acting for Ms. Legge-Bourke demanded Diana

withdraw remarks made to her during a party. The matter was settled privately and the insult involved was never authoritatively published.

Now, the *Daily Mail* reports, Ms. Legge-Bourke, 31, has decided on a tactical withdrawal and will not be present at the confirmation service. Neither will she accompany the young prince on their Easter holiday in Kenya with Prince Charles, as had been planned, the newspaper said.

When William does stand in Windsor Castle's 500-year-old Saint George's Chapel today, he will not be confirmed by Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey, a member of the church's evangelical wing.

In a break with recent tradition, William will be confirmed by the Bishop of London, the Rt. Rev. Richard Chartres, a traditionalist.

"Royals Snub Archbishop" blared *The Daily Mail* Friday, referring to Carey's "royal humiliation." But Carey "wholeheartedly approves" of the choice of Bishop Chartres, responded the archbishop's Lambeth Palace office.

Buckingham Palace said Carey was not being snubbed and that "the Bishop of London is dean of the Chapels Royal, so it is entirely appropriate that he should be asked to officiate."

Zaire rebels amicable to UN plan

GOMA (Reuters) - Zaire rebel leader Laurent Kabila said yesterday rebels could accept a five-point UN plan as a basis for more discussions but a cease-fire could only come after talks.

"If we accept it then it is so that we can negotiate, the points on the plan are there for discussions," Kabila told a news conference in the eastern Zairean border city of Goma.

A cessation of hostilities is the first point of the five-point peace plan, which the United Nations Security Council adopted on February 18 and on Friday called on Kabila's rebels to accept after the Zairean government agreed to the plan.

Kabila said his forces were meeting heavy resistance from soldiers of the Hutu former Rwandan army fighting on behalf of the Zairean government around Kisangani, the largest city in northeastern Zaire.

"We will negotiate the cease-fire with the Mobutists and there are no pre-conditions," said Kabila, referring to allies of Mobutu Sese Seko.

Zaire's ailing president the rebels are fighting to topple. Other points of the UN plan are withdrawal of all foreign forces, including mercenaries, reaffirmation of respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Zaire and other states of the region, the protection for all refugees and the convening of an international conference on Zaire.

Beirut orders trial for Red Army suspects

BEIRUT - A Beirut judge issued a trial order yesterday against five alleged Japanese Red Army terrorists charged with passport forgery and other offences carrying up to 10 years jail.

Investigative Judge Saeed Mirza issued the order after nine hours of interrogation of Masao Adachi, Kozo Okamoto, Mariko Yamamoto, Kazuo Tohira and Haruo Wako.

Before the interrogation began the five suspects rejected two lawyers appointed for them by the official lawyer's union and appointed their own, Bahara Abu Saad.

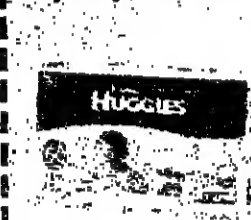
Abu Saad, who attended the interrogation, told reporters at the Palace of Justice that the interrogation covered all the charges.

At least 50 lawyers volunteered on Friday to defend the Japanese, saying this was an act of loyalty towards the terrorists who had stood by Arabs in their struggle against Israel.

They were arrested on February 15 and Lebanon announced that it would try them for local offences despite Japanese hope of extraditing the five to face international charges arising from terrorist activities.

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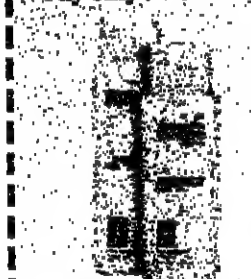
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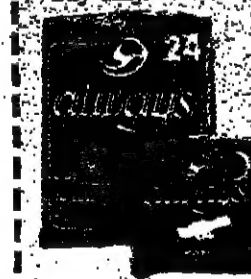
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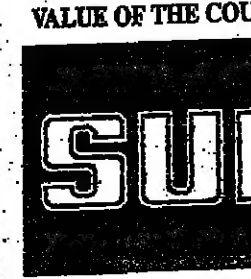
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20,000 Belgians mourn slain child

By ROBERT J. WIELAARD

BRUSSELS (AP) — Some 20,000 people attended a memorial ceremony yesterday at a mosque for a young girl found three days earlier in a gas station basement, the fifth victim of child sex murders that continue to rattle this country.

The body of Loubna Benaissa, nine when she disappeared in 1992 — was later flown to her parents' native Morocco for a Muslim funeral in Tangiers today.

The one-hour memorial was broadcast on national television. It renewed the national pain, grief and shame over a spate of child sex murders and shocking shortcomings by Belgian police to investigate them properly.

The memorial ceremony was held at Brussels' main mosque, around the corner from the European Union head office.

The round building was filled to capacity by hundreds of people: Loubna's family and relatives, parents of other children murdered in child sex crimes or still missing, envoys of Arab nations and representatives of the Belgian government and royal family.

Police estimated a crowd outside the mosque at almost 20,000 — many of them Muslims in white head gear as a sign of mourning.

They stood under a pale sun in a city park watching the ceremony

on giant television screen. Many had tears in their eyes and held pictures of Loubna whose body was found Wednesday stuffed in a trunk in the basement of gas station near her Brussels home.

Police have arrested Patrick Derochette, a known child-abuser, who worked as a mechanic there. He has been charged him with the Aug. 5, 1992, abduction of the Moroccan girl and her subsequent sexual abuse and murder.

Derochette has not been linked to Marc Dutroux, a convicted child rapist, arrested last August for sexually abusing and killing four young girls whose funerals were also broadcast on national television last year.

However, his case rivals that of Dutroux when it comes to police bungling: a child abuser remains free for years. The license plate of a car with Loubna inside is reported after the girl's disappearance, but not checked out. A witness who heard a child cry was ignored. Documents were misplaced, names misspelled.

Loubna's sister Nabila Benaissa, 19, and other speakers had harsh words for that at yesterday's memorial.

They wondered why it took police almost five years to make an arrest or locate the young girl's body that had been hidden in the very neighborhood where she lived.

Paul Marchal, whose daughter

An has allegedly been murdered by Dutroux, said, "Once again it has been shown that what could and should have happened, did not." A parliamentary inquiry into what ails Belgian law enforcement is to be completed this month. Such has been the extent of officialdom botching the investigations, that the hearings so far by the legislative commission have raised suspicions of a cover-up in the Marc Dutroux case.

Dutroux and Derochette both had records of sexual abuse of young children. Both were released early from prison, but not properly monitored nor considered as suspects on in the investigations of missing children.

Last October, 250,000 Belgians marched through Brussels demanding better law enforcement and more honest government.

That "White March" — the color signifying the innocence of children — has become a national movement with local chapters.

The mosque ceremony was a remarkable cultural mix. Moslems sat on carpets on the floor, but chairs were brought in for Justice Minister Stefaan de Clerck, Brussels Mayor Jean-Francois Xavier de Donnea and other dignitaries.

Loubna's body was not wrapped in fabric in accordance with Islamic tradition, but taken to and from the mosque by hearse in a small white coffin.



A Russian couple poses for a photo in front of a procession of Communist supporters demonstrating in Moscow on Women's Day. The banner reads, 'Women will save Russia.' (AP)

Yeltsin appoints liberal as first deputy premier

Hundreds protest Chubais's appointment

By ANATOLY VERBIN

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russia celebrated Women's Day yesterday with flowers and odes to the country's wives, mothers and daughters but some women used the day to protest the appointment of liberal Anatoly Chubais to a key government post.

Several hundred supporters of the Congress of Soviet Women and other groups demonstrated outside the Kremlin against President Boris Yeltsin's appointment of Chubais as first deputy prime minister.

"Down with Chubais" and "Fire Chubais" were among the chants of the mostly elderly pro-Communist crowd protesting against conditions in Russia. Some banged spoons on metal pans and bowls.

The Chubais appointment on Friday is likely to give momentum to free-market reforms in Russia, enrage the West and enrage the communist-dominated State Duma lower house of parliament.

The opposition hate "Iron Chubais" for his privatization campaign in 1992-1996 which they see as a cheap sell-off, and for his key role in Yeltsin's 1996 re-election victory.

Yeltsin marked the annual Women's Day holiday with a radio address, telling Russian women he adored them all but also using the chance to snipe at parliament and at his own government.

"When you try to resolve the problems of a family budget, you have to put more into it than our deputies or members of government, because, unlike them, you have to make a budget which can be met," he said.

Yeltsin said last week he had major doubts the spending plan could be fulfilled but he had signed it to avoid political turmoil. The government's plan was bad and the Duma had made it even worse, he said then.

Yeltsin's jovial tone yesterday matched the festive atmosphere in Russia but contrasted with the seriousness of his move bringing Chubais to the government.

The appointment of Chubais followed a decisive state of the nation speech to parliament by Yeltsin which marked his return to the helm of power after eight months of illness.

The West is sure to hail the new role for Chubais. He is trusted by the International Monetary Fund and the Group of Seven industrial nations and is capable of reviving confi-

dence that reforms in Russia are not stalled.

Shortly after the Chubais announcement, US President Bill Clinton also gave an optimistic prognosis for the Russian economy.

"I'm convinced that they have the capacity, if they make certain changes, to enjoy a phenomenal amount of economic growth in a relatively short time, which I think would help a lot of things in their country," he told a news conference.

Chubais is known for his fierce anti-communism and ability to ignore criticism. An excellent administrator and organizer, he not only generates ideas but is also capable of ensuring their implementation.

Yeltsin's Women's Day message followed the sentimental format developed in Soviet days.

"They are my words of love to you and I think (my wife) Naina Iosifovna will forgive me," the 66-year-old Russian leader said in a clear, light-hearted voice. "Russia is a country of immense riches but the biggest of all are you." Yeltsin acknowledged the burden borne in particular by Russian women, saying that they had to be "wonderfully inventive" to make ends meet.

New Microsoft browser bug found

SEATTLE (AP) — Another security flaw has turned up in Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser, the company has confirmed. Like the one found earlier in the week, it could enable a Web site operator to wreak havoc in someone else's computer.

This second defect would allow the operator to run programs secretly on another computer, send electronic mail under someone else's name, severely damage software stored on a hard drive or wipe out the hard drive altogether.

"Scary, isn't it?" said Dan Kusnetzky, a director at International Data Corp. in Framingham, Massachusetts, after hearing a description of the flaw. It was discovered by David Ross, a University of Maryland student.

In addition, a third bug, described by Microsoft officials as a variation of the flaw found earlier this week by students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts, was identified Friday by students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

David Fester, product manager for the Internet platforms division at Microsoft Corp.'s headquarters in Redmond, Washington, said software to repair all three flaws would be available on Microsoft's Internet site this weekend.

The most dangerous aspect of the second bug in Internet Explorer 3.0 is for users running Windows NT 4.0 with Service Pack 1 or 2 who are not protect-

ed by "firewalls," computer security barriers typically used by large business customers to prevent unauthorized entry through cyberspace.

The second bug would allow a malicious operator to put an innocuous-looking icon or graphic on a web page that, if double-clicked, would activate a damaging program or virus capable of bypassing security measures and secretly entering a user's personal computer.

Once inside, the program would be free to do whatever the operator wanted.

"For somebody to do this is very difficult," Fester said. "At the same time, I don't mean to minimize this in any way."

"We're moving very rapidly to fix that." The software patch Microsoft developed to fix the previous problem won't fix the second bug, but a new patch should be available for free downloads on the World Wide Web within 48 hours, Fester said.

Ross, a senior majoring in computer science from Randallstown, Maryland, reported the second bug Thursday to Microsoft and described it on the Web, complete with point-and-click examples.

In a telephone interview, Ross said he discovered the flaw while checking out the previously identified defect.

"It came to me after about 10 or 15 minutes," Ross said.

Newspaper 'prophet' dies at 80

NEW YORK (AP) — Ruth Clark, a market research firm owner whose landmark study suggested that US newspapers cover family issues and other "soft news" to

keep circulations from declining, has died of lung cancer. She was 80.

In addition to her 1979 study, *Changing Needs of Changing*

Readers, Mrs. Clark helped introduce exit polls into American politics and journalism.

She began as a door-to-door questioner, eventually designing surveys and becoming a vice president at Louis Harris and Associates in the 1960s. She was a senior vice president at Yankelovich, Skelly and White until 1983, when she started her own market research firm, Clark, Martire and Bartolomeo.

She married Joseph Clark, who became the foreign editor of *The Daily Worker*. The couple moved to the Soviet Union in 1950, but became disillusioned and returned to the United States in 1953.

Cambodian leader prefers prison to exile

PHNOM PENH (AP) — Cambodia's most prominent opposition leader said yesterday he would prefer prison to exile if convicted of what he calls politically motivated accusations that his party murdered the second prime minister's brother-in-law.

I will not ask to be exiled," Sam Rainsy said. "I will stay in prison because I want to fight for the truth. I am not afraid." Sam Rainsy, leader of the opposition Khmer Nation Party, said that the

allegations were a divide-and-conquer ploy to destroy his new alliance with First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh's royalist Funcinpec party and two smaller groups.

The National United Front alliance is targeting Hun Sen's former communist Cambodian People's Party, the country's most powerful political group, in legislative elections due next year.

Police announced this week that three members of Sam Rainsy's party had been arrested on charges of murdering Col. Kov Samuth, Hun Sen's brother-in-law, who was gunned down Nov. 19 outside a restaurant.

Among the suspects was Sam Vong Vannak, chief of security for Sam Rainsy's party. The opposition leader denied the other two — one of whom has reportedly con-

fessed to pulling the trigger in exchange for \$50,000 — were party members.

Sam Rainsy accuses Hun Sen and his supporters of fabricating the evidence. The former communists, who ruled Cambodia in the 1980s with support from Vietnam's occupation army, still retain control over most of the security apparatus, including the police.

Hun Sen has said he wants to find out who ordered the killing, suggesting it was Sam Rainsy, who has been harshly critical of the second prime minister and his party for alleged corruption and political violence.

Rainsy has not been questioned or charged in the killing.

Hun Sen and Ranariddh have governed Cambodia in an uneasy coalition since UN-brokered elections in 1993.

Irish president meets pope

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) — Pope John Paul discussed Ireland and the Northern Irish question with President Mary Robinson at an audience at the Vatican yesterday.

Chief Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls told reporters the two discussed "defense and promotion of spiritual values" in Ireland and the problems of the family.

Irish couples were allowed to file for divorce for the first time last month following an historic 1995 referendum which split the country and scrapped the ban on divorce by less than one percentage point. The Vatican is opposed to divorce.



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The residents of the Hamvri Home have adopted the Maintenance School and raise money to purchase study aids.




In the picture: Representatives of the Hamvri Parents' Home in Kfar Sava and officers of the Libi Fund.

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An electronic war of words

By JUDY SEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Read the following question and circle the correct answer:

Why doesn't the Education Ministry allow pupils to use an electronic dictionary while taking the English-language matriculation exam?

A. The ministry believes such dictionaries are too expensive and beyond the financial means of many pupils. It does, however, allow all pupils to use printed dictionaries during the three-hour exam.

B. The ministry believes that the electronic age may be too overwhelming and wants pupils to know how to look up words in a printed dictionary.

C. The ministry is confused about whether education should stress memorizing information or knowing how to find and use it.

D. The question is incorrect. Pupils suffering from dyslexia and other learning disabilities may bring an electronic dictionary into the testing room and use it.

E. Studies have not proven that using any dictionary during exams raises scores.

F. All of the above.

The correct answer is F.

For years, high-school pupils taking the matriculation exams in mathematics have been able to make use of scientific calculators, thus making unnecessary the need to memorize a variety of formulas. This speeds up calculations, of course, but the electronic gadgets won't help those who don't know what to do with answers displayed in split seconds.

But the Education Ministry – struggling over the notions of capitalism versus socialism and the print media versus digitization – still bars the use of considerably more expensive electronic dictionaries for the English bagrut.

Various companies that market such dictionaries protest against this "outmoded, discriminatory" policy, while the ministry admits that it's confused by the issue. The ministry's chief supervisor of English, Judy Segel, says that the English advisory committee is due to meet next month, to discuss this and the use of dictionaries in general. She says she and other members of the committee (other ministry officials and university English experts) will decide the matter "by consensus."

"There certainly is a financial factor," she says, "as not all pupils can afford the devices, helpful as they may be. But there is also the pedagogical factor. We have even found that schoolchildren with digital watches don't know how to read a



The Education Ministry will soon decide if pupils can take electronic dictionaries into tests.

clock with hands," she insists. "Despite the growing use of computers, youngsters must still know how to get information from books."

Steiner's predecessor, Raphael Gefen, disagrees. "I understand that the reason given by the ministry is only financial. If the price of such dictionaries can be brought down significantly, I would strongly favor allowing the use of electronic dictionaries during the exams. You can't fight progress."

Gefen, a British-born lexicography expert who retired as chief English inspector five years ago, has a personal interest in this debate: he was editor of the Franklin-Oxford Electronic English-Hebrew Dictionary, which is now being marketed around the country by Si-Or Technologies Ltd. in Petah Tikva. But Gefen, who is now working on print dictionaries, says Si-Or paid him a fixed sum for his two years of work, and has no further financial interest in the dictionary, thus he can be objective.

Franklin-Oxford is based on the Oxford University Press's Oxford Student Dictionary, meant for foreign students of English. Gefen and a Tel Aviv firm, Targumel Eicht, translated all 50,000 word entries in the volume, providing the Hebrew translation in a few words and also allowing users to press a key to define any word in the longer English-language explanation.

Since most English words have a variety of definitions and usages, the Franklin-Oxford team supplied a large number of sentences contain-

ing the defined word.

Pressing a help key also presents the word in all its possible senses. One can also look up the word in Hebrew for its English translation, but the English explanations are much more extensive. "This was intentional," maintains Gefen, "as dictionaries that define a word in the foreign language itself contribute much more to memory and understanding than an ordinary bilingual dictionary."

The electronic dictionary also offers games, such as hangman, which users can learn from vicariously.

S.I. Technologies managing director Uzi Haramati declares that other electronic dictionaries on the market pale in comparison to his own. "They give just a couple of words as a translation, without the sentences, the grammatical explanation and all the material needed by pupils. TextOn, Milonit and Targumel are really intended for businessmen and others who need direct translation of a few words. We don't regard them as competition."

Haramati also says other dictionaries wildly exaggerate their content. "They say they contain hundreds of thousands of words; this doesn't mean actual entries, but rather words used as definitions in foreign languages. This is highly misleading. We have 50,000 entries, and high-school pupils who want exemptions from college-entrance English tests need a vocabulary of fewer than 8,000."

This reporter, who borrowed a Franklin-Oxford for two weeks,

indeed found that the Franklin-Oxford was very impressive, offering much more content and depth than any of the others. It is also very small, compact and easy to use. But there is the matter of price.

The Franklin-Oxford is more expensive than the others: it sells via Visa and Mastercard for NIS 690, and purchasers can also order additional electronic "cards" that expand its content to include the American (English-English) Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the Concise Columbia Encyclopedia and a greater variety of word games.

Haramati claims the ministry hasn't even asked him about price. "The Oxford Student Dictionary is approved by the ministry for use in bagrut exams. If it approves the electronic dictionary, our company will be able to significantly cut the price, and consider offering it to pupils who can't afford a one-time payment with very easy payback terms. Maybe even a lending arrangement could be worked out with the ministry. But it hasn't even approached us," he says.

Although 12th graders would undoubtedly welcome having an electronic dictionary in their hands, at least one expert suggests barring the use of all dictionaries – printed and electronic – at bagrut exams. Professor Bernard Spolsky, chairman of the English department at Bar-Ilan University and chairman of the ministry's English advisory committee, says that "scientific studies conducted in Haifa and England on the use of printed dictionaries in foreign-language matriculation exams are not helpful to the average pupil. Its effect depends on the kind of dictionary, the type of student and the type of question."

If any of these factors are not right, using a dictionary during a test can be a waste of time when time is an important factor. "No studies have, to his knowledge, been carried out on electronic dictionaries and their effect on exam-taking and exam reliability."

Spolsky, who concedes that digital English dictionaries probably offer considerable incentive to learn, adds that "the easiest way to measure language proficiency is the extent of a person's vocabulary, so providing the answers introduces statistical error into the results and makes them more unreliable as predictors of success in college. All the bagrut exams are bad; the English test is probably less so. But using dictionaries of any type during tests skews their ability to predict success, so I will recommend to the committee that it rescinds its previous decision to allow print dictionaries."

As they follow these deliberations, high-school pupils will probably be rooting for the dictionaries.

NEW WORLDS

Computers as art

By POST SCIENCE REPORTER

Personal computers are functional but ugly as furniture. Students at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design recently took up the challenge to design more aesthetic PCs. The competition was organized by the Green Shop computer chain, but don't try looking for these 21st-century designs on its shelves too soon.

Uri Wolff won the \$2,000 first prize – plus a week's visit to an art academy abroad – for his idea of a computer that seems to float in space. When it's closed it looks like a piece of sculpture. Open it up and the screen and keyboard are ready for work. The screen can be rotated 360 degrees.

No'am Yalon won second place (\$1,000) for her versatile tabletop or wall-mounted screen. The third-place (\$500) winner was Yaron Kaplan, whose computer on wheels can be moved from place to place like a vacuum cleaner and be set on by a child. Rami Ben-Ami, an honorable mention winner, designed a slim-silhouette computer that could be hooked up to a network server and be put in every room of the house or hang on any wall.

Other innovative designs included a PC that's an integral part of a writing or ironing table, that has a regular-sized screen but is foldable like a laptop, and that replaces the child's bookbag, making pencils, books and notebooks obsolete.

YOU ARE WHAT YOU SPEAK

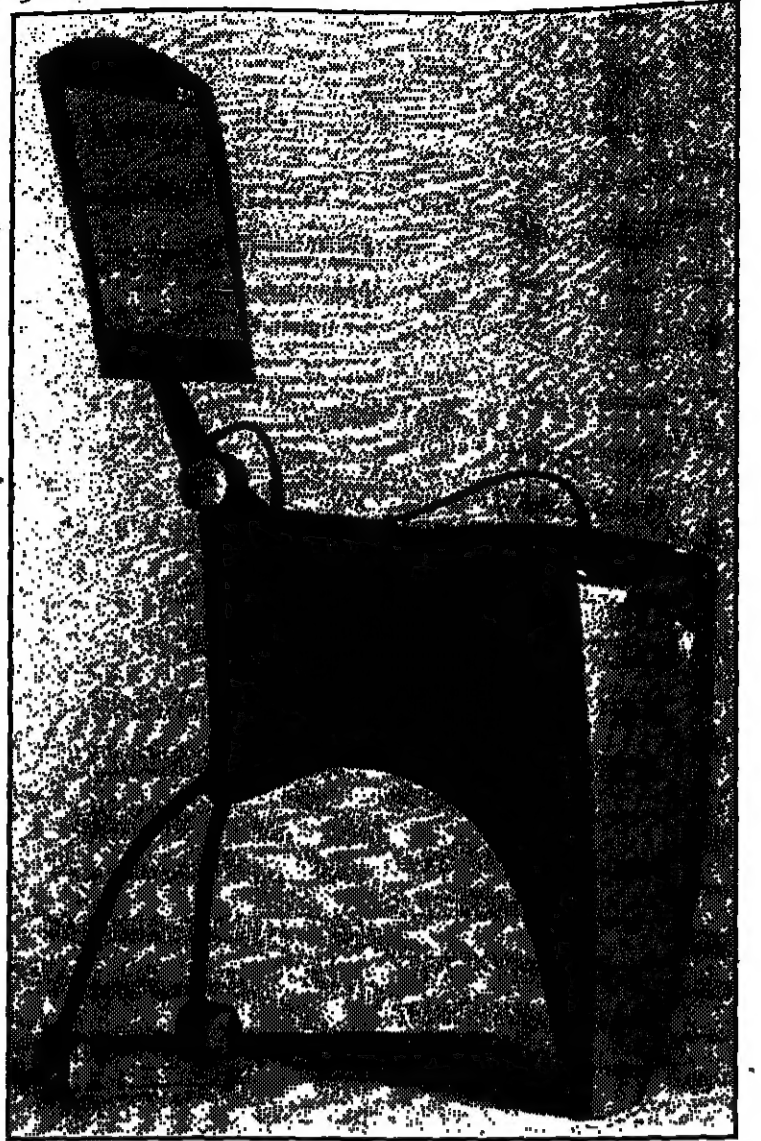
Does your family discuss politics and other external subjects over the dinner table, or just personal things? (Perhaps you don't all meet over dinner at all?) A Hebrew University researcher, who received an Israel Science Foundation grant, has documented significant differences in the communications patterns of families headed by poorly educated parents and the communications skills and success of their children in school.

Dr. Shoshana Blum-Kulka's research is cited in *The Forum*, a quarterly published by the American Foundation for Basic Research in Israel.

She found that in less-educated families, an average of 62 percent of conversation deals with personal topics and 12 percent on non-immediate subjects of general interest; in better-educated families, the respective figures are 45 and 35 percent.

She also found that less-educated families are far more strict in demanding, and arguing over, factual evidence.

Comparing the language skills of



Yoram Kaplan's imaginative computer can be wheeled around the room.

children in the two groups, she asked them to define 10 common nouns. She found that those from well-educated families used much more detail than the poorly educated and tended to use a formal format, such as "A sofa is..." rather than just a phrase.

High ratings for both explanation and detail were strongly connected to overall communications skills. Thus, concluded Blum-Kulka, verbal interactions in families seem to affect and help predict the development of verbal skills needed for educational success.

DEAD ON THE NET

In Japan, it will soon be possible to be virtually dead. Reuter reports that a Buddhist temple in the city of Hiroshima plans to open a "virtual graveyard" on the Internet.

Visitors will be able to choose dif-

ferent types of electronic tombstones and include photos of the deceased and family records on a Web page. They will also be able to create their own memorials in advance and leave informal wills for their families.

Yukihiko Takada, a monk at the Kanmonji temple, said the idea came from people who live too far away from the temple to visit but wanted to tend family memorials and pay respects to ancestors. Some 200 people have already asked to register; they included numerous Japanese living abroad and others whose relatives' graves had been destroyed in the 1995 Kobe earthquake. It has also received requests for virtual graves for deceased pets. The Kanmonji temple homepage (<http://www.urban.or.jp/home/kanjizai/>) already boasts about 20,000 retrievals a month.

HEALTH SCAN

More drunks on the road

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

There is little basis for the belief that drunk drivers are not a major factor in road accidents. If a survey conducted by family physicians in Beersheba represents the situation around the country, Israel is in trouble.

Drs. Aya Peleg, Pesach Schwartzman and Roni Peleg of the department of family medicine at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev interviewed 110 drivers aged 17 to 38 chosen at random in public places in the city. Their results are published in the latest issue of the *Harefuah*, the journal of the Israel Medical Association.

Forty-three percent of them reported that they drive after drinking alcohol, and nearly a quarter of these do it often. One in 20 drink alcohol while they drive! The heaviest drinkers were the most likely to drive after drinking. The researchers asked how much they drink before and during driving, and the amounts were enough to make most of them high risk for causing road accidents, the researchers found. In fact, 15 percent of the respondents said they had been involved in a road accident during the previous 12 months.

According to Israeli Police statistics, the rate of road accidents in which drunk drivers are involved is steadily growing. A 1993 study of people leaving pubs found that half of them drove themselves home even though they had been drinking, and a third of those who actually felt under the influence of alcohol intended to get behind the wheel.

The researchers said the results of their study have to be regarded with care, as it cannot claim to be based on a representative sample of the entire Israeli population. But the fact that it shows the same tendency as similar studies conducted recently should set off alarms.

The BGU doctors criticize their fellow physicians for "neglecting" to discuss alcoholism and drunk driving with their patients. This is due to a lack of awareness as well as a lack of proper training of doctors to deal with this subject.

DISK-COVERY

All about elephants and other animals

By JUDY SEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Hapil (*The Elephant*) and Hadov (*The Bear*), two CD-ROMs in a series, for all ages, each a multi-lingual version (including Hebrew) of disks by Lascaux Infogrames and distributed here by Mirage Multimedia, NIS 149 for the elephant disk and NIS 159 for the bear disk.

Rating: four-and-a-half stars out of five

Remember the old Jewish elephant joke? One Jew goes to the zoo along with his friend who has never been there before. After getting a long discourse about the elephants, their life cycle and habitat, the novice looks at his friend and asks: "Is it good or bad for the Jews?"

About the only thing that the first disk doesn't deal with is "The Elephant and the Jewish Problem."

Everything else is there – from its birth to death – presented in an excellent format full of serious text, whimsical animation, exciting video film and full-color photographs.

The same is true about the bear disk, and it is probably also apt regarding the *Ha'aryeh* (The Lion) disk in this series, that I haven't yet seen.

The information is cleverly displayed like a loose-leaf binder; the user clicks the lower edge of the screen to flip the page over. The program on each disk is translated into 11 languages, including English and Hebrew, of course, as well as Norwegian, Portuguese, Swedish, Danish, Dutch and other European tongues.

Unlike most other "virtual book" translations, the Hebrew version – properly and thoughtfully – goes from right to left instead of vice versa (which is very confusing to young users).

The title page even boasts that "no wood-blocks were destroyed for the production of this virtual book."

Each disk contains 30 chapters that are easily accessed either by browsing in order or going directly to a special button to choose what you like. Each chapter deals with a different subject.

Alongside the text on the screen are icons that can be clicked for multimedia material: a friendly encounter between male elephants or a bear fishing for a salmon, for example. Click the icon of a radio on each screen to hear interesting background information. This is especially useful to younger children who can't read the voluminous text. One icon even recites Rudyard Kipling's poem about an elephant.

Each screen also shows a cartoon-style animal that, if clicked, performs an animated task related to the chapter's subject (the elephant will even play tic-tac-toe with you and the bear eats honey).



Hapil is part of a CD-ROM series on animals.

After learning all you can, you can test your skills on the very enjoyable test section containing dozens of multiple-choice questions based on the material. Each program ends – how else? – with a posterior view of the animal.

The disks' highly enjoyable edutainment format could be used for every type of animal in the zoo – or any other subject that lends itself to multimedia.

The only people who won't like these CD-ROMs are those who have absolutely no interest in animals (but how many people are there like that?).

Search for your Israel Cousin II, a CD-ROM in English, for children aged 10 and up, by the Davka Corporation of Chicago, distributed in Israel by Alan Rosenbaum (02-9933470), NIS 130.

Rating: three-and-a-half stars out of five

You don't have to be a Diaspora Jew to appreciate this disk, but it helps.

The plot centers about the passing away of "Uncle Chaim," who left a will and stipulated that it could be read only in the presence of all your relatives.

Your mission (not impossible) is to locate all your relatives around the world and bring them to Israel for their reading of the will. (The first version of the disk is entirely about Israel.)

The game starts with the presentation of your 12 relatives. Click on each, one at a time, for an introduction, from zaides and bubbas to small cousins.

The details about them are not very relevant to the game, but they are pretty corny and stereotyped: the favorite food listed for "Bubby" is "chicken soup – what else," and her "favorite rock artist" is Michelangelo (this joke won't play well in Jerusalem or even Tel Aviv). Her favorite relative is "you of course... oy, I'd love to pinch those cheeks." Cousin Rebecca, for example, is an accountant whose favorite TV show is *60 Minutes*, favorite food is tuna on rice cakes and "favorite hair color is Nice and Easy No. 32."

One at a time, you must search for a relative. There are 21 cities or countries around the globe where they could be hiding and over 200 clues.

But you have to pay for the air tickets and each clue.

If you run out of the money allocated at the start of the game, you're finished and have to start again. You are also given a limited amount of time to find all the relatives; if you succeed, there is a surprise to reward your efforts.

The clues (e.g., "He wanted to see the Geniza" refers to Cairo) are based on historical information about the Jews in each country.

When you have guessed the correct location, you select it from among five names on a world map and arrive (an animated plane takes you there).

A nice photograph representing the place is shown, along with data on the Jewish community.

This is a painless way to teach children some Jewish history. I found one error: Tel Aviv is described as "the largest city in Israel." This honor, of course, belongs to Jerusalem, even if the Tel Aviv metropolitan area is bigger than the capital's.

If the player can't make head or tail of it even with the clues, he can click on any of the 21 locations to get full information. At various places along the route, the player "finds" certain objects.

When used at the right place, the lawyer sends you more money for your expedition. You can also print the information out if you like.

The disk could charm Diaspora Jewish children who don't know too much about their heritage; Israeli kids who aren't fluent in English would find it difficult and not attuned to their interests.

Be forewarned that it lacks the rich animation found on most children's multimedia CD-ROMs today. If the kids you have in mind for this demand cartoon action, this will disappoint them.

TELL ME WHY

Getting older and shorter

By JUDY SEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Why do the elderly get shorter and look shriveled? Jane, Jerusalem.

Dr. Yehozkel Caine, director-general of Herzog Memorial Hospital-Ezra Nashim replies:

This is one of the inevitable effects of aging. It happens to everyone, but is more blatant in some. There are genetic and environmental factors. People are shorter at night, as gravity makes the vertebrae press together during the day. Also, years of living cause the spinal bones to press down closer to each other, further reducing stature. As people age, their spines can collapse and fracture,

making the spinal column shorter.

The loss of subcutaneous fat causes a reduction in bulk, muscle tone and underlain support, and as the years pass the tissue loses elasticity, causing crinkling that makes the skin look shriveled, especially in those who spent much time in the sun and in those who smoke.

Have you wondered about the scientific explanation for ordinary phenomena? Now you can get an answer. Mail your question to TELL ME WHY, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem, fax is to (02) 538-9527, or send it by e-mail to jusie@post.co.il. Include your first name and place of residence.

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A principled veto

New US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is fond of calling the United States the world's "indispensable nation." The US veto of a UN Security Council resolution that would have expressed "deep concern" about Israel's plans to build a new Jewish neighborhood in Jerusalem is one of those occasions that demonstrates the indispensability of America's moral approach to foreign policy.

The vote in the council was 14 to one. The resolution was not only supported, but sponsored by American allies Britain, France, Portugal, and Sweden. The easy thing would have been to go along with the crowd. But the US instead took a principled stand that demonstrates the difference between convenient demagoguery and a deep and long-term commitment to the peace process.

The resolution, like practically all UN resolutions, was an unadulterated exposition of the Arab position: The proposed Har Homa project is an "illegal settlement." Israel's position is that the project is not a settlement, but a neighborhood in Jerusalem, no different than half a dozen other neighborhoods built since the reunification of the city in 1967. Nor is it illegal, since the Oslo Accords say nothing to prohibit either Arabs or Israelis from building in areas that will be the topic of negotiations.

But the US objection was not so much the content of the resolution - which is not far from America's own stance - than the principle of the UN taking sides in the process. The new US ambassador to the UN, former congressman Bill Richardson, explained: "We have never believed, despite the useful role the council has played in working for a Middle East peace, that it is an appropriate forum for debating the issues now under negotiation between the parties."

The reason that the US is sadly correct in describing the UN as an "inappropriate forum" is that the UN's idea of furthering the peace process is taking the Arab position on every dispute. The vote on this resolution starkly demonstrated that even European nations most sympathetic to US foreign policy do not understand or care that by so unashamedly taking sides they are writing themselves out of a serious role in the process.

Clearly, the position of most nations toward the Middle East, including most enlightened democracies, is not determined by the merits of the issue or even by what is good for the peace process, but rather by the diplomatic weight of a bloc of nearly two-dozen Arab nations versus the bloc of one, Israel.

It is no coincidence that Israel belongs to no "bloc" of nations at the UN, and has never been allowed to sit on the Security Council. The morality of the US position flows from the fact

that United States is the only country in a position of power that sometimes resists this diplomatic version of "might makes right." It is sad commentary on European foreign policy that these nations let the US bear the sole burden of doing what is best for peace, not simply taking the course of least resistance.

Friday's attempted resolution by the Security Council was particularly illustrative of most nations' lack of interest in whether their actions are actually in the interest of peace. It is the Palestinians, after all, who are threatening to toss Oslo out the window by engaging in a violent response to Israel's decision.

An unbalanced condemnation of Israel, without any exhortation to the Palestinians to abide by their numerous commitments to non-violence, could have been read as a signal that the sole blame for Palestinian violence would have landed at Israel's doorstep, as it did in September over the opening of an exit to the Western Wall Tunnel.

Furthermore, it is worth noting that the Security Council's opposition to Israel's decision is the mirror image of the support for that decision in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet, in the Knesset, and among the people of Israel. It is ironic that, on a day in which the UN almost blasted Israel's consensus position as threatening peace, the Netanyahu government was making a territorial concession to the Palestinians so controversial that it risked toppling the government.

Israel's cabinet voted 10 to 7 to hand over almost 10 percent of the territories held by Israel since 1967 to full or partial Palestinian control, as the first of three withdrawals required under the Oslo Accord.

This was controversial within the cabinet, because the withdrawal included some of "Area C," an area in which almost no Palestinians live, and because the Palestinians had made none of the concessions expected since the Hebron agreement.

Because of the cabinet decision, the 20-odd members of the Land of Israel Front within Netanyahu's Knesset coalition are threatening to join the opposition in bringing down the government. As the government continues to implement Oslo, with a larger margin of support than previous governments, the right wing could well decide that, paradoxically, a more centrist, or even left-led government is in its interest.

If the international community is seriously interested in the health of the peace process, it should be pressing the Arab world to demonstrate the benefits of the Israeli government's politically precarious policy of taking risks for peace. The world's indispensable nation should not have to bear this burden alone.



OLEB 97

Escape from the sordid

There is no controlling legal authority that says this was in violation of law. - Al Gore, seven times (in one form or another), White House news conference, March 3.

Controlling legal authority. Whatever other legacies Al Gore leaves behind between now and retirement, he forever bequeaths this newest weasel word to the lexicon of American political corruption.

Gore is talking here about his phone calls from the White House soliciting Democratic campaign contributions.

Now, he cannot say, "I have broken no law," because section 607 of Title 18 of the US Criminal Code states very clearly that there is to be no solicitation of campaign funds in federal government offices.

Gore broke the law as written, as understood and as practiced. His defense? Apparently that there are no cases testing the law. So there.

The problem for Gore is not just that Mr. Clean is taking refuge in one of the flimsiest legal confessions of our time. It is that this flimsy confession is directly contradicted by his own president.

Here is President Clinton, one week earlier, defending his 103 White House coffees: "We got strict advice about - legal advice about what the rules were, and everyone involved knew what the rules were. ...There was no solicitation at the White House."

The rule: no solicitation.

And in case that wasn't clear enough, here is presidential parrot Mike McCurry on the same Clinton coffees: "There is a separate restriction that exists for the solicitation of funds for political activities, which cannot occur on these premises."

Solicitation cannot occur on these premises.

McCurry: "The law is what counts... the law is the law... the law goes to the question of solicitation, and that's the issue."

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

What a paradox. Gore lavishes the most fulsome praise on the wisdom, vision and clear-sightedness of his president. But regarding what is and is not legal in the Clinton White House, Clinton is for Gore no authority at all.

The apologists say: Well, what's the difference? It is a meaningless distinction. Congressmen run out of their offices and make all cell

The magic words are 'no controlling legal authority.' That's the defense

phone calls from the Capitol parking lot to stay on the right side of this law.

BUT that's exactly the point. With active politicians, it is very hard to draw a line between public service and self-serving campaigning. It is precisely because the line drawn is necessarily somewhat arbitrary that it is very bright and very clear.

So clear that congressmen, like furtive sidewalk smokers, must make their campaign calls outside. So clear that the president indignantly defends his coffees by saying he solicited no money. So clear that McCurry insists that the law is the law, and solicitation defines lawbreaking.

Ah, but that was last week. In this White House, a week is a lifetime. What was law last week is now history. This week the very idea of law gives way to "controlling legal authority."

But this week, too, the Clinton scandals finally reach critical mass. The reason is simple: volume. There are so many of them, coming from every direction.

News of Gore's lawbreaking comes days before news that the first lady's chief of staff took a

\$50,000 campaign contribution in the White House from a California "hustler" (the National Security Council's word) looking for "access."

This comes just days after the Lincoln bedroom list, the selling by a tenant of what most Americans regard as their common patrimony.

At the same time, the Commerce Department announces new rules banning what the Clinton administration had been doing for four years - giving places on international trade missions to fat-cat Democratic donors.

Meanwhile, documents emerge showing that the mad INS rush to naturalize a million new Americans last year (resulting in hundreds, maybe thousands of criminals sliding through unchecked) was done under the pressure of a White House eager to produce new Democratic voters in time for Clinton's reelection.

Clinton had made promoting trade the keystone of his entire foreign policy, and now it turns out that it was a vehicle for the crassest political money-grubbing. It turns out, too, that naturalization, that most sacred induction ritual into the American civil religion, was also made an instrument of Clinton's political purposes.

Is there anything Clinton and Company have touched that they have not corrupted?

On October 13, 1996 - amid all this immigration, trade, Lincoln Bedroom, White House phone-calls sordidness - Al Gore went on national television and said this: "The ethical standards established in this White House have been the highest in the history of the White House. You have a tougher code of ethics, tougher requirements strictly abided by."

And no controlling legal authority to contradict him.

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Top priority

ERIKA HECHT

As millions, maybe billions, of dollars in Jewish assets stemming from the Holocaust are about to become available to the Jewish community, it is not surprising that every under-funded - and deserving - institution and organization is clamoring for a share.

Ironically, the cancellation by Israel's Health Ministry of allocations to AMCHA, which provides psychosocial assistance to Holocaust survivors, has called attention to the population who must be the first to be benefited before any other funds are distributed: those who endured the horrors of the darkest period of Jewish history, and lived.

There are 300,000 Holocaust survivors in Israel today; some 150,000 others live abroad. This aging population requires the general health and welfare services needed by any other population.

But survivors also need social and psychological assistance to deal with the pain and trauma that was not laid to rest half a century ago - the loss of loved ones, delayed mourning, the absence of a family burial site, physical reminders of anguish.

World news, terror attacks, the uncertainty of everyday life in Israel - all are triggers which can bring long-buried emotions to the surface, even for those who have been successful at building new lives.

Many survivors are indigent. Contrary to popular belief, thousands do not receive any form of reparations. Among Russian immigrants alone, there are some 50,000 survivors whose former government is certainly not offering any compensation.

Where can these survivors find the funds for essential items like eyeglasses, hearing

We cannot allow Holocaust survivors to be victimized a second time

aids, prosthetic devices, and emergency call systems?

Many frail, elderly survivors are alone in the world. When they need old age homes, who will find them appropriate, caring placement? And who will cover the high monthly costs?

AFTER World War II, immigrants to Israel were expected to put the past behind them immediately, and devote all their efforts into building the new Jewish homeland.

Consequently, the State of Israel failed to pay sufficient attention to this fragile population in its midst. Money that was provided went to building memorials, because it has always been easier to honor dead "heroes" than deal with the reality of weakened survivors.

The decision to cut funding to AMCHA illustrates the sad fact that when government budgets are cut, it is survivors who get dealt the first blow.

It can be argued that, in not too many years, there will be no survivors left. But demographic statistics show that 100,000 survivors living in Israel were children when they endured the horrors of World War II. By all estimates, they will be alive in the year 2015.

And then there are some 700,000 children of survivors - the second generation - in Israel alone; people who never experienced the Holocaust directly, but carry its burden throughout their lives.

Providing them with appropriate therapy has become more and more important, and there are beneficial effects for their parents as well.

Building memorials to Holocaust survivors has captured hearts, minds and wallets around the world.

"There's no business like Shoah business," is how the late Manfred Klaffer, the Dutch survivor who founded Amcha, described the phenomenon.

The dead should be memorialized, he said. But, he stressed, it is crucial to care for the living.

Holocaust survivors must be first on the list of beneficiaries as soon as the European funds become available.

They must be helped now, while they are still alive. We must act to ease their pain and assure them that although they were victims of the Holocaust, they are now a cherished and valuable part of the Jewish people.

We cannot allow the survivors to be victimized again.

The writer is president of North American Friends of AMCHA-Israel.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ARAFAT'S FOXINESS

Sir, - The editor of *The Jerusalem Post*, in a talk last week in front of AACI members in Netanya, recommended that people who have reason to be critical of a newspaper's wrong position should express their views, and "ultimately they will have an effect." The next day, the paper's editorial "A master player" (March 5) portrayed Yasser Arafat as a master tactician and Benjamin Netanyahu as a blunderer. It said that "everyone can understand Arafat's claimed objective: Peace in exchange for a Palestinian state," whereas Netanyahu comes across as an intransigent lacking a vision of peace.

Rather than applaud Arafat as a master statesman, *The Post* would do better to keep emphasizing certain key points, such as:

(1) Arafat's threats of violence and the unexpunged covenant are indicators of a long term plan;
(2) A democracy like Israel's is, by its very nature, messier than a dictatorship like Arafat's; and
(3) No matter what Netanyahu might declare as his target, he would be called inflexible and narrow-minded, by the media among others.

Many of us recall how Hitler's guile won over the rest into believing he wanted only "peace in our time." It is up to *The Post* in its unique function as Israel's English window to the world, to keep spotlighting Arafat's foxiness for what it is.

Ultimately this will have an effect.
F. BERCOVIC

DANGEROUS SPY?

Sir, - I would like to know if Marcus Klingberg is really more dangerous than Arab terrorists. Is he really a national threat more than Arab terrorists with Jewish blood on their hands? We are constantly releasing Arab terrorists, male and female, who had been serving life sentences but not releasing Klingberg. Since his spy days, things have changed. Don't you think both he and his information are both too old?

RIFKA MONDERER
Petah Tikva.

MEAN-SPIRITED RIDICULE

Sir, - I do not understand why *The Jerusalem Post* consistently singles out Sara Netanyahu for derision and ridicule.

On the day after Mrs. Netanyahu accompanied her husband on a visit to the pope the *Post* published an editorial cartoon, depicting her in a peasant outfit dancing before the pope like a mindless doll.

I had watched world press coverage of that visit and it seemed to me that Mrs. Netanyahu was dressed appropriately for the occasion and behaved correctly. She seemed to me in that regard no different than other non-Catholic women visitors to the pope, such as Hillary Rodham Clinton - and Leah Rabin.

MOSQUITO PROJECT

Sir, - It was a pleasure to read your science report on "Dead Sea area saved from mosquito plague," (February 23). This project, among many others, shows the benefits of Middle East regional cooperation at the grassroots level, or, may I say, at the level at which larvae breed. Mosquitoes recognize no borders.

As a former US foreign service officer, now living in Israel, I can attest first hand to the extensive

Now the *Post* sees fit to call attention to the fact that on a visit to Amman Mrs. Netanyahu had a run in her stocking. The story (hardly a world shaking scoop) is accompanied not only by a photo, but by an enlargement of Mrs. Netanyahu's knees - should any one miss the point.

Surely the *Post* has female staffers who know that a run in one's stockings is neither unusual nor totally preventable. To call attention to this occurrence during a state visit is both in poor taste and mean spirited. It is hardly an example of responsible exercise of freedom of the press.

ARNOLD I. KISCH, MD

Jerusalem.

A SPIRITUAL COMPASS?

Sir, - In responding to Jerome M. Epstein's "Please - Not 'winners' or 'losers,'" this reader is struck by his abuse of the Jewish concept of justice to promote an assimilationist political agenda. In each generation a Korah surfaces to arouse dissent and challenge the legitimacy of Israel's spiritual leadership, saying, "You take too much upon yourselves, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them... how is it then, that you set yourselves up above the assembly of the Lord?"

Instead of affirming how Israel's spiritual leadership and authority is properly entrusted to loyal guardians of an authentic Torah ethos, Mr. Epstein mimics Korah,

saying, "the law would codify the tyranny of the Orthodox minority over the majority of Israeli citizens."

Mr. Epstein, by prefacing his claim upon non-Jewish concepts of moral pluralism, and attempting to turn the majority of our citizens against Israel's spiritual leadership, is responsible for an unethical and brazen act of religious and political sedition, which ironically, would deprive all Jews of the "spiritual compass" which he so emphatically and correctly believes must serve "as a spiritual compass for world Jewry."

KEVIN E. ABRAMS

Safed.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



What heart problems? Boogeying Boris Yeltsin is pictured in Rostov at a rock concert last June, well before his heart surgery. The photo won third prize in the People category of the World Press Photo Competition.

(Alexander Zemlianichenko/AP)

هكذا من النجمل

Making peace is child's play

A Jerusalem synagogue is the latest playground for an initiative promoting peace and understanding among Jewish and Palestinian children, Ruth Mason reports

Five hours before Shabbat evening prayers, the sanctuary at Jerusalem's Congregation Kol Haneshama is transformed into a playground for peace.

The wooden ark containing the Torah scrolls remains in its place, but all the chairs have been pushed aside and the large, shiny marble floor is covered with colorful balloons and Jewish children holding hands, tossing balloons and crossing imaginary rivers together.

The children, six- to 10-year-olds from the Agron School in Kiryat Hayovel and a Lutheran and Catholic school in Beit Sahur, a West Bank village next to Har Homa, have been brought together by Play for Peace, a 10-month-old organization based in Denver, Colorado.

While Israel is Play for Peace's first site outside the US, it has similar play days planned in Bosnia, Nicaragua and South Africa. Their purpose, according to co-founder Craig Dobkin, is to promote positive relationships among children from conflicting cultures by getting them to have fun together.

Dobkin is part teacher, part clown, part magician.

As the children enter the large sanctuary, he blows rhythmically on his kazoo and waves them over. They gather in a large circle around him and Dobkin proceeds to entrance them with magic tricks, gets them to giggle

over silly handshakes and to mimic funny sounds. Without uttering a word, he keeps their delighted attention for 10 minutes before dividing them into three mixed groups to play with two pairs of Arab and Jewish teen facilitators trained for this purpose.

Dobkin does all this from a

"The only image I had of Israelis was of soldiers trying to kill me."

—Rihab Jaber, age 16

wheelchair. A rock-climbing accident 14 months ago left him with little feeling in his legs. Bearded, with long hair, he looks like actor Robin Williams and has the same energetic sense of humor.

Every once in a while, with a conspiratorial look and as though he is parting with a great treasure, he hands a teacher or child Tootsie Roll from a large, hidden stash.

He toots through red plastic lips at a Jerusalem restaurant. He quotes academic research and Mother Teresa in the same

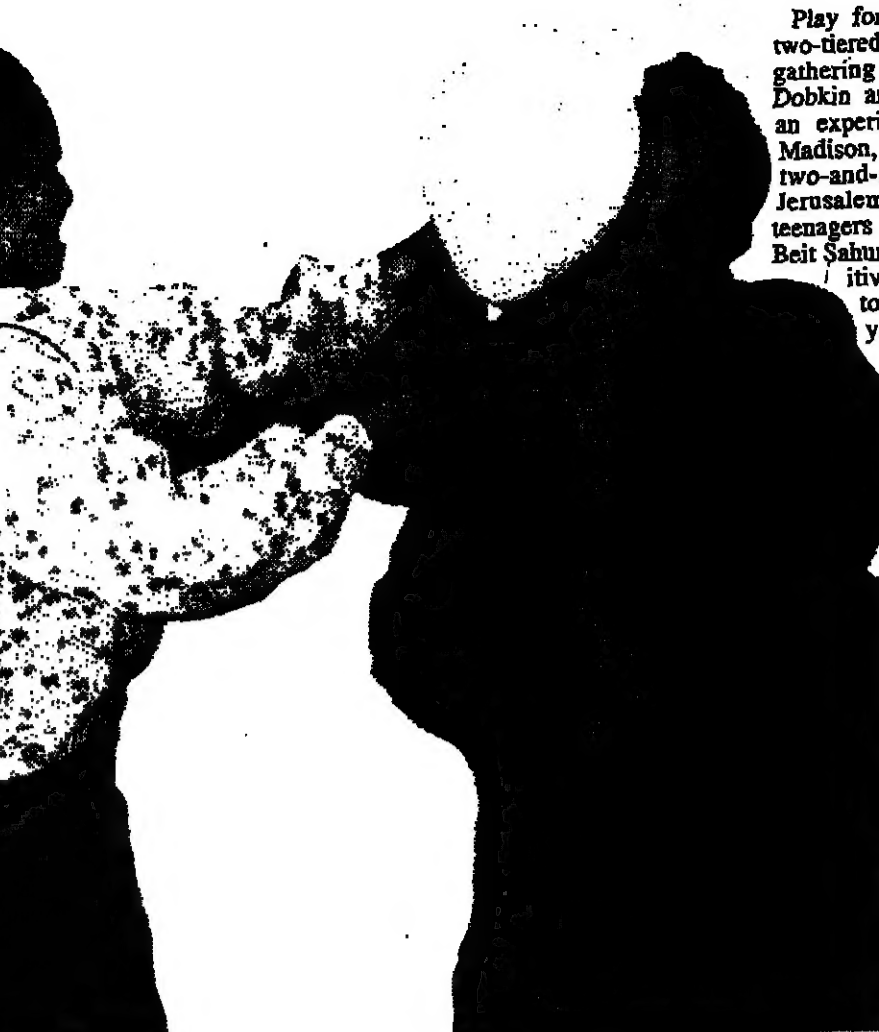
breath.

Calling himself a "nice Jewish boy," Dobkin said he taught for 20 years before becoming involved in experiential learning full time.

His accident probably accelerated the beginnings of Play for Peace, which he created with a partner just under a year ago. "In my old job, everything was measurable, manageable, wanted to be more in the world of creativity, of living in the unknown, the impossible," he said. At this point most of the project's expenses are covered by the founders themselves. Their services are provided free of charge.

Dobkin is obviously the kind of guy who likes a challenge. Upon leaving the synagogue after the play session, he maneuvers his wheelchair so that its back faces a set of outdoor stairs. Told there is a ramp around the corner, he says he prefers this route and proceeds to bounce down stair by stair while guiding himself with his hands on the banister.

The project received on-the-ground assistance from the Jerusalem Foundation and the Rapprochement Dialogue Center, an organization of Palestinians and Jews who sponsor dialogue groups. George



Saliba Rishmawi, 26, a Bir Zeit University English student active in the center, accompanied the children from Beit Sahur. "This is amazing," he said, watching the children run and laugh together.

"It's building a bridge at the grass-roots level."

"Although we at Beit Sahur are having trouble these days with Jabel Abu Ghneim (Har Homa), we'll not stop our coexistence work."

The games the children are

playing are not the usual ones you see in parks and playgrounds. They are purposely structured so that there are no winners or losers. In many of them, the group has to work together in order to achieve a goal. The kids are quiet at first, most of them never before having had contact with a child from the other culture. But a fast game of elbow tag, in which you are "safe" when you link arms with someone else, gets them laughing.

Play for Peace's approach is two-tiered. A week before the gathering at Kol Haneshama, Dobkin and Candace Peterson, an experiential educator from Madison, Wisconsin, had spent two-and-a-half days at Jerusalem's YMCA, training teenagers from Jerusalem and Beit Sahur to teach non-competitive, participatory games to mixed groups of younger Arab and Jewish children. The plan is for the play days to continue once a month over the next year.

PLAY FOR PEACE is an initiative of an international organization called The Association for Experiential Education. According to Dobkin, experience is what counts. There is no talk here about peace, coexistence or tolerance. "You won't see the kids talking about their feelings here," he said.

"Words are a problem, not a solution. A picture is worth a thousand words," Dobkin continued, "but an experience is worth a thousand pictures."

According to Dobkin, Play for Peace's work is based on research that shows that six- to 10-year-olds are the best age group to work with for their purposes. "It's the time when kids are just becoming aware of self, others, of different cultures and how they interact," said Peterson, who raised the money for her trip to Israel and is volunteering her time here. Dobkin also quotes a University of

Minnesota study that states that: "When I hear something, at the end of two weeks, I retain 10 percent of it. What I see and hear, I retain 20 percent. What I see, hear and do, I retain 80 percent. And what I see, hear, do and teach, I retain 97 percent."

This is the rationale behind getting teenagers from both cultures to learn and then teach the games to the younger children.

It's clear from the way they greet each other at the start of the two-hour play period that the teenagers formed affectionate bonds during their two-and-a-half days of training. It's the common purpose of teaching younger children that creates the bonds, Dobkin says.

By the end of the two hours, the children ask if they will be able to do this again. "Fun," "fantastic," and "wonderful," are the words they use to describe their experience. "I learned a little Arabic and I learned that when people get together, they can do something big even when they are small," said one 10-year-old from the Agron School in the large closing circle.

"I thought Israelis and Jews were bad people who came here to steal our land," said a counterpart from Beit Sahur. "But now I see they are people you can play with and make peace with."

Rihab Jaber, 16, from Beit Sahur, said she had never talked to an Israeli before her Play for Peace training last week. "I thought it would be impossible for me to talk with them," she said. "I was small when the intifada began and the only image I had of Israelis was of soldiers trying to kill me."

"But I wanted the challenge. I managed to make friends. I know now that people aren't the problem. The people want peace. It's a problem of governments."

SHABBAT (HALOM



By SHOMON RISKIN

The following is last week's portion, Ki Tsa, which was not published due to a technical error.

"God told Moses to speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'But my Sabbaths shall you observe, for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you.'" (Ex. 31:13-18)

What is Shabbat observance mentioned again in the middle of a description of the tabernacle in the portion of Ki Tsa? For the previous six chapters — ever since the start of "T'mana" — we've been dealing with the details of the tabernacle's construction. Then the Torah suddenly switches: "But my Sabbaths shall you observe."

What is the connection? The Sabbath may be holy, but so is the tabernacle. What about working on the Sabbath to get the tabernacle built as soon as possible?

According to Rashi, the verses in this portion come to forestall such a possibility. Rashi writes: "Even though you may be anxious and alert to do the work promptly, the Sabbath must not be pushed aside for its account."

Rashi points out that "always the terms rak and akh are limita-

tions, to exclude (lama'et) the Sabbath from the construction of the Tabernacle." Hence, the Torah is emphasizing that despite the best of intentions, no work on the tabernacle can take place on the Sabbath!

Nahmanides disagrees sharply with Rashi's use of the exegetical laws. Indeed, according to biblical rules of hermeneutics, the result should be the opposite of what Rashi claims: not excluding the tabernacle from work on the Sabbath, but rather excluding the usual Sabbath prohibitions and allowing the tabernacle to be constructed even on the Sabbath.

Of course, Nahmanides agrees that work on the tabernacle does not abrogate the Sabbath, but this is because he simply includes the tabernacle in all the usual Sabbath prohibitions. He must therefore use the word akh to teach something else. For Nahmanides, this is the commandment to save a human life — pikuah nefesh.

Akh, he says, comes to tell us that we must waive all Sabbath prohibitions in order to save a human life.

Although Rashi and Nahmanides interpret the function of the word akh differently, Rashi excluding Sabbath from the work of the tabernacle, and Nahmanides excluding the Sabbath when it poses danger to human life, I would like to suggest that if we combine both interpretations, we come up with a majestic truth about Judaism.

In looking at the Sabbath in relation to the tabernacle, Rashi's akh reminds us that although the holiest and most exalted physical endeavor may be the building of the tabernacle, "Akh shabtotai

tishmoru. "You must still observe my Sabbaths"; the Sabbath is holier.

Quite simply, the sanctity of time is greater than the sanctity of space. One of the reasons for this is that a sanctuary in time (to use A.J. Heschel's beautiful metaphor for the Sabbath) can never be destroyed by human weapons, whereas a sanctuary in space (the Holy Temple) has been destroyed twice. Perhaps as a consequence, the Jews have managed to live without their Temple, but could never have survived as a people without the Sabbath.

Nahmanides goes one step further. He knows that Shabbat is holier than the tabernacle, but stresses a sanctity greater than both — the sanctity of the human being. This sanctity is even alluded to in our verse, which begins: "But my Sabbaths shall you observe (Akh et shabtotai tishmoru)" and ends with: "This is a sign between me and you and all generations, that you may know that I am the God who sanctified you" (Ex. 31:13).

How will we know this? Because God created us in His image, and the strongest expression of that is the teaching that human life takes precedence over the Sabbath. On the Sabbath I can transgress all the laws in order to save a single human being.

In effect, God is saying that the holiest of all his creations is the human being! Even the most punctiliously observant seem oblivious to the sacred character of every individual, Jew or Gentile.

Two great hassidic rebbes, the Voorker and the Kotzker, were

once discussing holiness. The Voorker compared the commandment to live in a succa (booth) for the week of Succot with that of taking the "four species" during the same week. According to him, the succa was the more sacred command because, while the command of the four species enabled one to hold holiness, when in the succa it is holiness which holds the individual.

The Kotzker responded that from this perspective, the Sabbath remains the holiest of all commandments. After all, a person can always walk out of the succa, but he can never walk out of the Sabbath!

I would suggest that one can walk out of the Sabbath. Whenever an individual leaves the Shabbat table to go to a cinema, or opts not to have a Sabbath meal with candles, kiddush and singing, or interrupts the meal with angry words or slanderous gossip, he is in effect walking out on the Sabbath.

God is the one who gave us the Sabbath. God is the one who is introducing us to holiness. The greatest recognition of this is the recognition of the inherent holiness of the human being, created in His image, and the development of human compassion and sensitivity towards others, through which we become more God-like.

Thus, on the one hand we have the Sabbath — exalted, loved and honored by us for thousands of years.

On the other hand stands the human being, who is often neither exalted, loved nor honored, but who ought to be. Each and every Sabbath we must confront this profound truth.

HEADS 'N' TAILS

Feeding pets raw meat

By D'VORA BEN SHAIL

One of the most common questions asked by dog and cat owners is whether they have to cook meat, poultry and fish for their pets or if they can feed these products raw.

Many are concerned because they have heard one or more commonly believed myths: that feeding a dog raw meat will make it vicious, or that it will cause intestinal parasites.

By and large there's nothing wrong with feeding raw animal products to a dog or cat, in fact it is often advisable.

Cats and dogs are predators and their digestion is especially adept at handling raw meat. As for parasites, while fish may have fish tapeworm there is no danger of infection from eating raw fish — the parasite is specific to its host species and is destroyed by the digestive juices.

Dogs and cats get tapeworm from swallowing infected fleas, since the flea's body protects it in the stomach and passes it on to the intestines without damage.

As for raw meat making a dog

vicious, it won't. It might, however, make it healthy.

Another common query is about feeding chicken bones. All experts caution against feeding dogs chicken bones but most owners still do. Chicken bones, in some circumstances, can splinter, creating a mass of small, very sharp bone needles. In some cases these can puncture the stomach or intestine.

While many dogs eat chicken bones all their lives without suffering any ill effects, a few do get into serious trouble and without surgical intervention die. It would be extremely negligent of anyone to advise feeding chicken bones to dogs since the possibility of danger is real, even though rare.

Another question concerns feeding leftovers and also treating dogs and cats to sweets. As for leftovers, most can be fed, all meats, dairy products and cooked vegetables with the exception of potatoes and beans.

Both of these complex carbohydrates are basically harmless but cause an excess of stomach gases. Some cats and a few dogs also like fruit and there is no reason not to

give it to them in small quantities.

As for sweets, cats aren't a problem because most cats don't care for them but dogs have a "sweet tooth." The myth that giving a dog sweets will cause it to have worms is false, parasites come from infection with the eggs or larvae of parasites, not from candy. But like people, dogs can get a lot of dental problems from sweets and it is certainly best to avoid them. They do not need this sugar and it is preferable to treat them with a dog biscuit.

I personally think a combined diet of dog or cat kibble and the addition of meat and dairy products is preferable, and this includes table scraps as well. With cats, a portion of sardines or tuna in oil a couple of times a week will help keep the coat in good condition and will help prevent hair balls from forming. Cats get these often deadly hair balls by licking their fur and swallowing the matted hair. Dogs can eat an egg a week for good pelt but never give raw eggs to pups less than a year old as raw eggs prevent the absorption of essential vitamins in the young dog.

SYRIA AND ISRAEL - From War to Peace-making

Moshe Ma'oz examines the history of relations between Israel and Syria throughout the Middle Eastern conflict, demonstrating its crucial importance for the strategic posture of both countries, for the fate of the Palestinian problem, and for the prospects of an overall Middle East peace settlement. Published by Oxford University Press, 1995. Hardcover, 262 pp.

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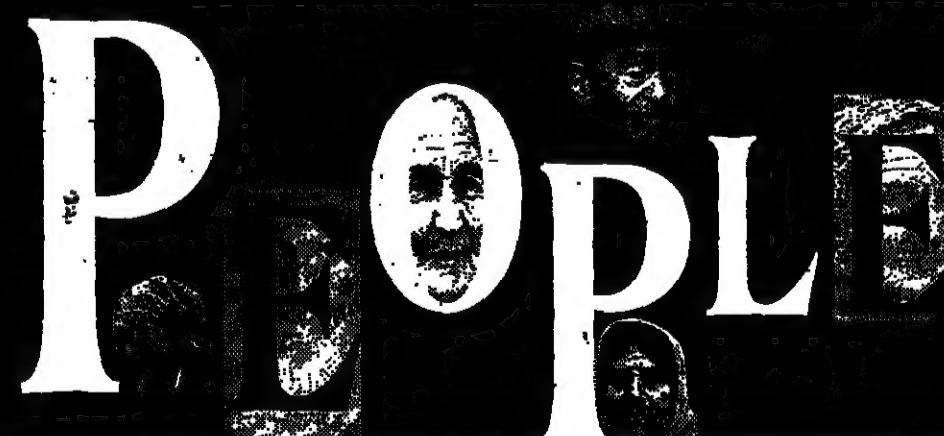
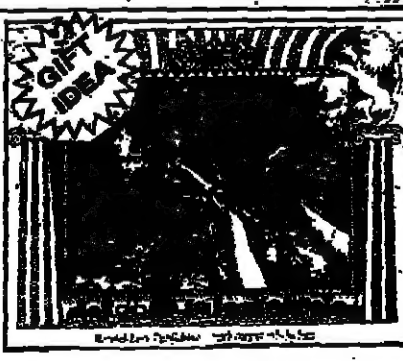
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CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Noam Sheriff leads the Israel Chamber Orchestra in Schnbert's Fifth Symphony and Prokofiev's Classical Symphony while British violinist Gyorgy Pauk performs Lutoslawski's *Chain II* for Violin and Orchestra tonight and tomorrow at the Tel Aviv Museum (8:30).

Renowned Spanish pianist Joaquín Achúcarro presents a recital of music by Granados and Albeniz preceded by Ravel's *Gaspard de la Nuit* and the same composer's *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales*. Tonight at Yad Labanaim in Ra'anana (9).

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

There are some roles that make actors salivate. That of Maria Callas is one of them. Playwright Terence McNally's Tony Award-winning *Master Class* is a tour de force for the actress playing the legendary diva giving one of her rare master classes. They were in the place to be in the '70s, and the glitterati packed the house. The Habimah production stars Gila Almagor as Callas talking about her life, her loves and her art. Her students are up-and-coming tenor Yevgeny Shapovalov, and sopranos Lilach Koch and Hen Reis. Tonight and all week in Meckin Hall at 8:30.

DANCE

HELEN KAYE

Sankai Juku, Japan's foremost exponents of Butoh, are here with *Shijima*, a piece in seven movements for five dancers led by Ushio Amagatsu and Anzumi Ogata. There is no sensational athleticism or visual gimmicks in this transformative piece. The dancers take you with them onto another plane, and into the intimate,



Gyorgy Pauk plays Lutoslawski in Tel Aviv.

emotional personal world of *Shijima* which means serenity, the serenity that comes after pain. At the Jerusalem Theater on the Sherover stage tonight and tomorrow night at 8:30.

LECTURE

HELEN KAYE

Adult fairy tales? Sure. Why not? Austrian writer and storyteller Folke Tegethoff has been spinning them ever since his first book rocketed to fame in 1978. Now, 28 books and more than 1 million copies later, Tegethoff is here to talk about fairy tales and about his international Graz Tales story telling festival in Graz, Austria, from May 13 to 19. Tonight in Haifa at Beit Rutenberg at 5. (German)

WHAT'S ON

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Herz and Zorin
8:30 Desinos
8:00 Geography
9:20 Nature
9:30 English
9:45 Programs for the very young
10:15 Social Sciences
10:45 Arithmetic
11:10 English
12:00 Mathematics in Daily Life
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14:00 Surprise Train
14:20 Kitty Cat and Tommy
14:35 Babar the Elephant
15:00 Pretty Butterfly

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22:00 The Camera Quintet
22:30 World Soccer
23:30 News
23:50 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs
6:20 Top Bear
6:55 This Morning - with Gail Gazit and Rivka Michaeli
9:00 This Morning - with Rivka Michaeli
9:55 Sonora
10:45 Dynasty (pt)
11:40 L.A. Law (pt)
12:30 Gennie and the Captain
12:30 News Cards
14:00 Echo Point
14:30 Tic Tac
15:00 The Flintstones
15:30 Madison
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
17:00 News magazine with Rafi Reshef
17:30 Click - dating show hosted by Karin Oir and Nir Friedman
18:00 Roseau
18:30 Carr Hurry Love
18:30 Crazy Caricid Camera
18:15 Backwards
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20:30 Dudu Topaz
22:00 Rafi Reshef - talk show
22:30 Documentary Box
23:30 Sunday in New York (1983) - comedy about a sweet young girl who swines in New York City to get advice from her big brother about premarital sex.
With Jane Fonda, Cliff Robertson (105 mins.)
00:00 News
00:05 Sunday in New York - continued
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2:35 Mozart into the Night
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TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Herz and Zorin
8:30 Desinos
8:00 Geography
9:20 Nature
9:30 English
9:45 Programs for the very young
10:15 Social Sciences
10:45 Arithmetic
11:10 English
12:00 Mathematics in Daily Life
12:30 Social Sciences
13:00 In the Heat of the Night
14:00 Surprise Train
14:20 Kitty Cat and Tommy
14:35 Babar the Elephant
15:00 Pretty Butterfly

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Motomoka from Mars
15:55 Body - animation
16:20 Five on the Roof
16:25 Byker Grove
16:45 Super Ben
16:55 Zap to Basel
17:00 A New Evening
17:34 Zappi
Improvisation
18:15 News in English
ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Annal and Kamela Studio
19:00 News in Arabic
HEBREW PROGRAMS
19:30 News flash
19:31 With Tom and Dalia
20:00 News
20:45 A Second Look
21:30 Personal Story
22:00 The Camera Quintet
22:30 World Soccer
23:30 News
23:50 Verse of the Day

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Police hope Bar-On probe in final week

By Jerusalem Post Staff

A number of the central figures in the Bar-On Affair are to be questioned again this week, some of them under caution, as the probe enters what police hope will be its seventh and final week.

Those expected to be questioned include Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman, Shas MK Aryeh Deri, Roni Bar-On, and Likud activist David Appel.

Police are investigating allegations revealed by Channel 1 television, according to which Shas made a deal to support the Hebron agreement in exchange for Bar-On being appointed attorney-general and arranging a plea bargain for Deri, who is on trial for fraud.

Today a decision is to be made whether to request Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, who has not yet been questioned, may be called to give evidence this week. Hammer obtained in the cabinet vote on the Bar-On appointment.

Over the weekend, police and the State Attorney's Office were

reported to be in disagreement over the legal implications of the findings thus far.

The police are reportedly inclined to recommend serving indictments against several personalities in the probe on charges of conspiracy, fraud, and breach of trust. However, the State Attorney's Office is taking a more conservative stance and is not yet prepared to recommend indictments.

Senior police officers and officials in the State Attorney's Office, including State Attorney Edna Arbel, reportedly had a heated discussion on the issue over the weekend.

However, spokesmen for the police and the State Attorney's Office denied the reports, saying they had not yet discussed whether to serve indictments.

Most of the police evidence focuses on Deri, who allegedly acted to bring about Bar-On's appointment out of extraneous and personal considerations, and Hanegbi, who is suspected of breach of trust in presenting incorrect facts regarding the appointment to the cabinet and the prime minister.

Mordechai, Shahak give IAF pep talk

By ARNHE O'SULLIVAN

The IAF, under fire from the media and parents of some of the 73 soldiers who were killed in the February 4 helicopter collision, got a pep talk from Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak over the weekend.

Mordechai met with top IAF commanders, including all branch and base commanders, for three hours on Friday to discuss the atmosphere in the force in the wake of the helicopter tragedy and subsequent inquiry.

"I heard from them about their great pain over the tragedy... but I can't put the blame on anyone," Mordechai said.

The IAF commanders took issue with the public's growing hostility toward the force as the inquiry headed by former OC Air

Force David Ivry proceeds. Mordechai and Shahak told the IAF commanders that they had the full backing of the military and the government.

The defense minister rejected calls to dismiss senior air force commanders, including OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliyahu.

"The air force commanders are wonderful people and the air force is responsible for defending the state and in some circumstances even our existence," Mordechai said on Army Radio.

But Mordechai said if the intensive work being done by the Ivry commission of inquiry revealed that there were people against whom action had to be taken, the army would do so.

"A terrible tragedy has befallen us with very deep consequences," Mordechai said in a statement.



Yoel Herzog speaks to the press outside Grasse Prison on Friday, after being released on bail.

Yoel Herzog released on bail

By ELDAD BECK

PARIS - Israeli businessman Yoel Herzog, son of former president Chaim Herzog, was released on bail Friday from a French prison, where he had been held since December on suspicion of involvement in a corruption scandal in Cannes.

Herzog, 47, who works for his father-in-law, Swiss businessman and vice president of the World Jewish Congress Nessim Gaon, returned immediately after his release to Geneva, where

he lives with his wife and four children.

The investigating magistrate in the case said Herzog would be called to stand trial in two months' time, but sources close to the investigation said the trial would take place later, since more time is needed to collect evidence.

Herzog is one of the directors of Gaon's Noga group, which owns the Noga Hilton Hotel in Cannes. Allegations have been made against Gaon and Herzog that they bribed Cannes's mayor for a license to operate a casino in the

hotel.

Gaon's and Herzog's lawyers claim that the mayor extorted the bribe by using threats and other forms of pressure.

French authorities had invited Herzog, who has Israeli and Swiss citizenship, to France to answer questions in connection with the allegations. Herzog came to Grasse on his own volition on December 2, but was immediately arrested. His lawyers said the three-month incarceration was in complete violation of international law.

Half of Swiss support fund

By MARILYN HENRY

Half the Swiss support the government plan to launch the humanitarian fund for Holocaust victims and others, although there was significant opposition, according to a poll published over the weekend.

The plan is to use the "income" from Sfr 7 billion in official gold reserves to start the fund, which will aid victims of the Holocaust, human rights abuses and disasters. The fund also has drawn mainly right-wing criticism, and was opposed by 33 percent of 600 people surveyed, according to the newspaper *Berner Zeitung*.

The random poll still reflected the first sign of popular support after two days of criticism, led by industrialist Christoph Blocher, that suggested that the idea could be shot down in a referendum.

"This is a pleasant surprise. This result demonstrates a very widespread willingness among the Swiss people to support solidarity," government spokesman Achille Casanova told the newspaper about the poll.

The *Berner Zeitung* survey was sharp contrast to a telephone survey by the tabloid *Blick* that appeared on Friday. Under the banner headline "No!", the tabloid said 90% of nearly 4,000 callers had denounced the plan as a waste of Swiss central bank gold reserves.

The government fund is separate from a humanitarian fund launched last month by the three leading Swiss banks. Last Thursday, a federation of Swiss companies said it will contribute \$46 million to that fund - the so-called "private fund" - bringing to \$188 million the amount to compensate needy Nazi victims.

USAF, Justice apologize for boycotting Jews

NEW YORK (AP) - The US Air Force and Justice Department have settled charges that they had ordered the exclusion of Jews from a government project in Saudi Arabia, despite a law banning US companies from respecting the Arab boycott of Israel and Jews, reports said.

The charges were brought by the Commerce Department, which is authorized to enforce the anti-boycott law. The settlement, recently filed with the Commerce Department, was first reported last Wednesday by *The Journal of Commerce*.

As part of the settlement, the Justice Department and Air Force apologized and promised to abide by the law.

An Air Force colonel first suggested excluding Jews and

"Jewish-surnamed personnel," and a Justice Department official approved it, according to the settlement. There was no evidence that the government of Saudi Arabia played any role in the exclusion.

The settlement stemmed from a 1991 lawsuit filed against the United States by The Boeing Co. The government hired an outside contractor, CACI Inc. of Virginia, to photocopy thousands of documents in Saudi Arabia to prepare for the lawsuit, which concerned military sales abroad.

A proposal for the project contained the provision: "No Jews or Jewish-surnamed personnel will be sent as part of the Document Acquisition Team because of cul-

tural differences between Moslems and Jews in the region." At least one Jewish worker was denied employment on the project and was compensated.

The Commerce Department imposed a fine of \$15,000 against CACI, *The New York Times* reported yesterday. As part of the settlement, CACI signed a statement that it was mistaken "to follow orders from two federal government agencies" on the assumption that the orders were legal, the *Times* reported. Fines against individual company and government officials were suspended.

Responding to the report, Defense Secretary William Cohen has instructed all branches of the military to ensure such discrimination is not repeated.

Uzbekistan opens embassy in Tel Aviv

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov announced Friday that he had officially upgraded the Uzbeki Consulate in Tel Aviv to an embassy.

Karimov told a delegation of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations here on a four-day trip that the change had been made several days before, but his was the first official announcement.

"We stand for a peaceful solution of the problems which will pay respect to both Israel and the other party," Karimov said. "We

stand for the further strengthening of relations between us and Israel."

The president said he had been "impressed greatly" when he met Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Lisbon in December and said he expects to visit Israel later this year.

Karimov stressed his country's firm stand against the spread of Islamic fundamentalism and great respect for the traditions of Uzbekistan's 30,000 Jews.

"Fundamentalism of any kind is absolutely unacceptable to us," he said, citing threats to the central Asian republic from neighboring Afghanistan and Iran.

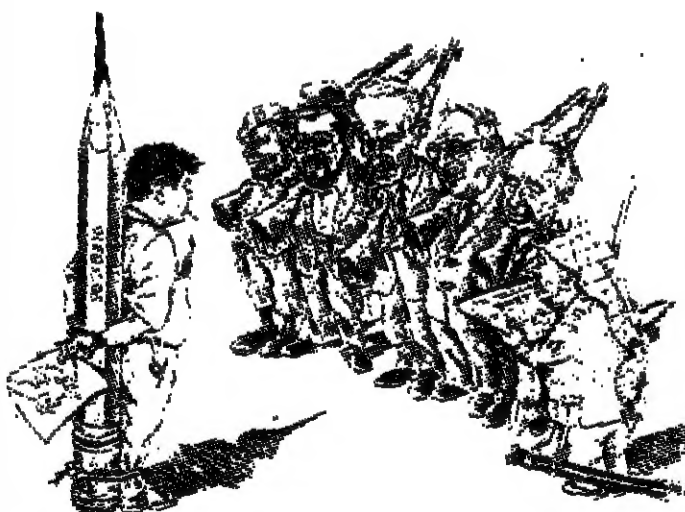
Lebanon lifts Netanyahu book ban

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Lebanon's information minister has overruled a ban on distribution of materials published in Israel and authorized the sale of a book by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Netanyahu's book would help the Lebanese understand what Israel is up to, information Minister Bassem Sabab said.

"The book contributes to improving the knowledge and awareness of Arab and Lebanese citizens towards the Zionist and Israeli plans and uncovers the thoughts that rule behavior of the enemy prime minister," Sabab said.

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